スウィート 1

青山景

IKKICOMIX

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小学館

IKKI601

SWEEET スウィート 1

青山 景

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HAYASHI Susumu, his twin brother Tsutomu and TOYAMA Sakura are childhood friends. Tsutomu disappeared when he was ten years old. Then two years later, he reappeared - this time only in front of Susumu... And what's more, from inside a mirror! Now, events that no one has ever experienced take place in this bizarre love triangle!

Cute, paranoiac, and the sweetest new kind of love comic!

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スウィート1

SWEEET

青山 景 comic by Kei Aoyama

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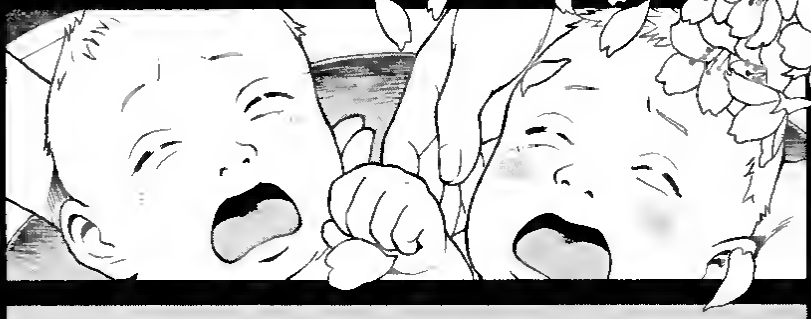
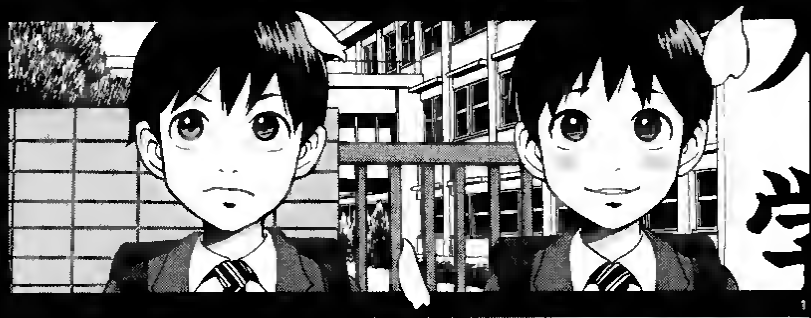
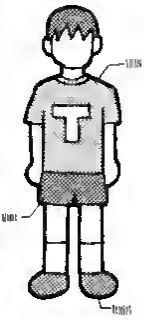


Ever since the beginning, we were always together.

So I never really thought too much about it.



But suddenly, without any warning, I was alone...



WE ARE LOOKING FOR THIS CHILD. IF YOU HAVE SEEN HIM, PLEASE CONTACT US.

HAYASHI TSUTOMU (Age 10 at the time)

- Height: Approx. 130 cm
- He was last seen wearing: light blue T-shirt, shorts, white socks, blue running shoes.

TELEPHONE XXX-(XXX)-XXXX

POLICE DEPARTMENT

3 YEARS LATER

3
STOP IT!
YOU KIDS!

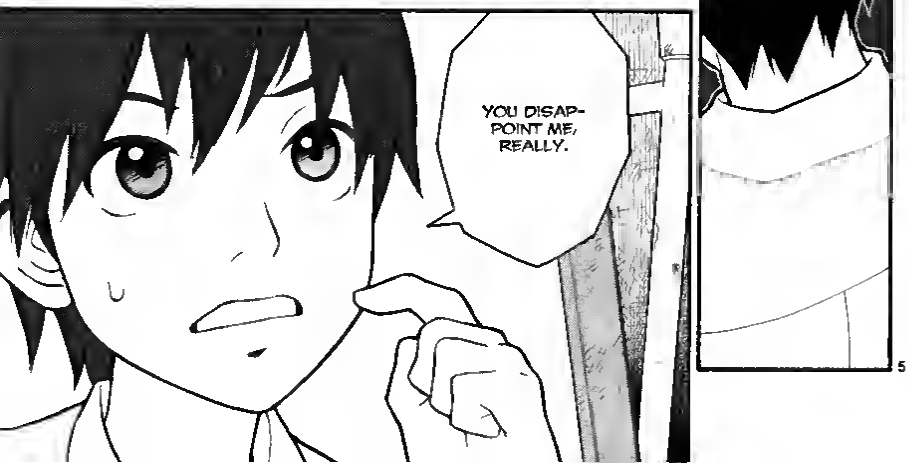
I CAN DO THIS!!

I'M NOT GOING TO FORGIVE YOU!
YOU ...

HEY!

Gyahahaha! COME ON, STAND UP, SAKURA-CHAAAN!

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ALL THIS TIME?


YOU DISAP-POINT ME, REALLY.

THAT'S YOU, SUSUMU.
OH, REALLY? WHAT'RE YOU GETTING ALL NERVOUS FOR, TSUTOMU?
COME ON!
LISTEN TO WHAT I'M SAYING!
THEN DON'T BOTHER ME.
HEY, HEY!
COME AND GET IT, YOU STUPID SCREW-UPS!
HOW'S THAT?
I WOULDN'T KNOW.
WHAT THE HELL IS IT?!
IT'S JUST GETTING GOOD.

FORGET ABOUT HOW YOU LOOK AND JUST GO OUT THERE.
I...
I'M GOING NOW...
I KNOW...

Chapter 1: Mr. Bear from the Forest

In all of my life, there was one time that I hit a home run.

OH MY GOD!!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
He surprised me, to say the least!
...only to show up two years later inside a mirror.
But then Tsutomu disappeared when he was ten...
HAYASHI TSUTOMU

NICHAN* HAS 33 STRIKE OUTS IN A ROW!!
STRIII-KEEE!!
UH?
I hit the home run back when Tsutomu was still with us like a normal person
We always played together, the three of us.

* Big Brother

NO! THERE'S NO POINT IN THAT!
DAMN!
SAKURA, GO A LITTLE EASY ON HIM.
SUSUMU.
SO...
I'M GOING TO THROW IT WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT.
...
NOD
...KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL!

CRAAAP !!
OH...
GYAAAAH!!!
12
Sneaky
HEY!

Ugh
Cough
Ugh... Bwuguk
Ohhh, OH NO WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
SOOOORY! I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT THIS GAME.
Hey, STAND UP! YOU'RE MAKING NANA-CHAN FEEL BAD!
SO-
SORRY! DON'T MIND ME
TH...
THIS IS REALLY FUN...
REALLY?
THEN, YOU DON'T MIND IF I DO IT AGAIN?

JUST GO HOME, MAN.

GYYAAH!!
びくっ

I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS
ST STOP IT, YOU...!

shake shake
NOW THAT I'M HERE

I THOUGHT IF YOU JUST TOOK THIS CHANCE AND GREW UP A BIT...
...I WOULDN'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH YOU ANYMORE, BUT...
WELL, THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN FOR A WHILE.
GO HOME AND DRINK SOME MILK OR SOMETHING.
NO!
I'LL DO IT!
SWISH SWISH
I LIKE SAKURA!!
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO HELP HER!!
FIRST, TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT SAKURA.
FINE. THEN LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.
UWAAA-AAHH!!
UWAAAA-AAAHH!!

SUSUMU, YOU NEED TO BE IT.
THE PLACE WHERE SAKURA CAN STAND UP LIKE BEFORE.
SAKURA...
I-I'M FINE...
JUST GOT A LITTLE SLEEPY FOR A SECOND.
...SHE'S BEEN HIDING, UNABLE TO MOVE.
IN BETWEEN A LITTLE SPACE SHE'S CREATED BY TWISTING REALITY.
SAKURA-CHAN?
SA, KU, RA-CHAAAAN!
WHAT'S WROOONG?
WHAT WILL I DO IF THIS TURNS INTO BULLYING?
SHE'S ALREADY REACHED HER LIMIT
OH?
I'M NOT SMART LIKE YOU, SAKURA-CHAN

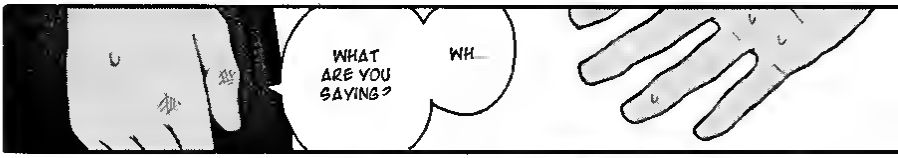
TAKE HER HAND.
LET'S GO, SUSUMU.
IT'LL BE OKAY I'M GOING WITH YOU.

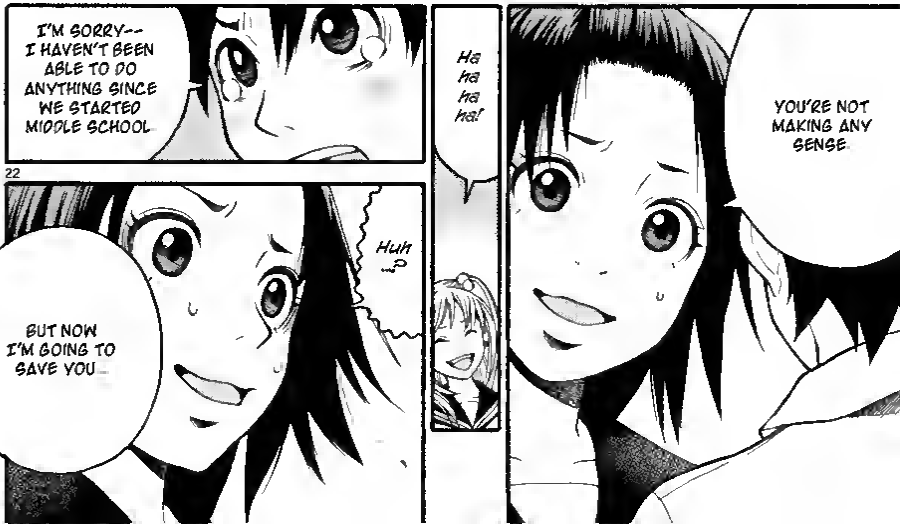
HE HE HE!
ぐっ
GO OUT THERE
す、
19
LET SAKURA GO!!
YOU BRATS!

YO-
YOU
PANIC
PANIC
HUH?
WHO ARE YOU?
20
WHAT?!
HUH? I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND... HAYASHI-KUN, WAS IT?
WE WERE JUST PLAYING

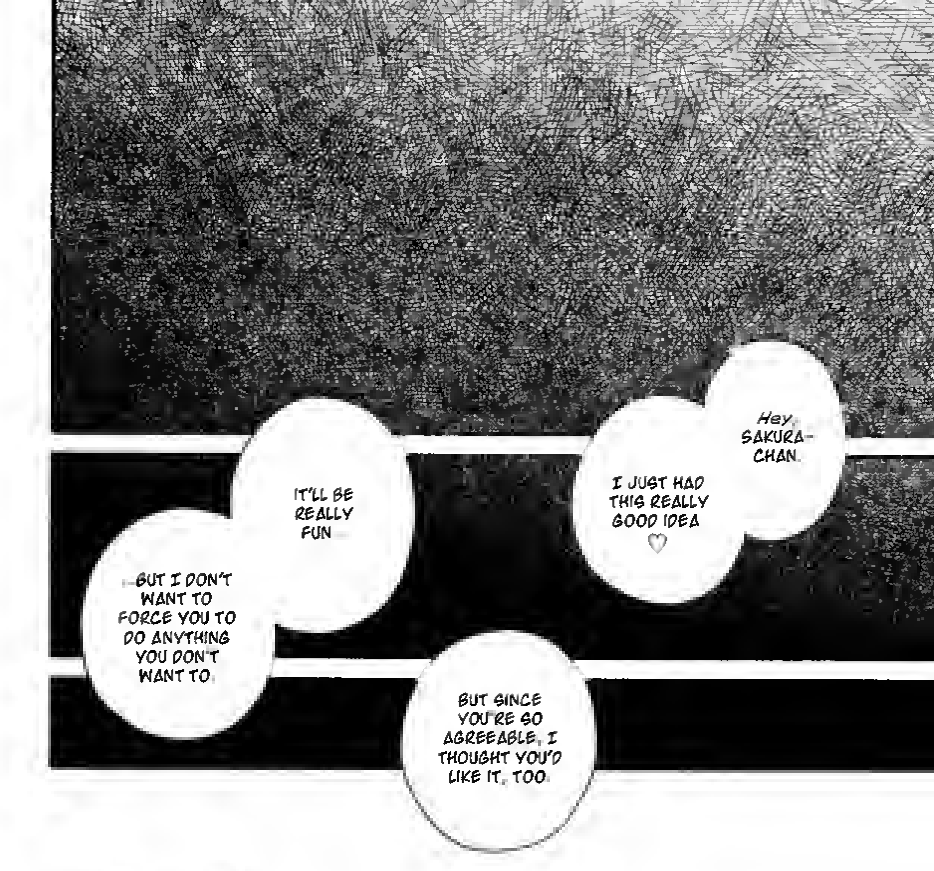
RIIIIGHT!
GRIN GRIN
...?!
RIIIGHT, NIIJIMA-SAN?
21
SAKU RA...?
SA...
WHAT?

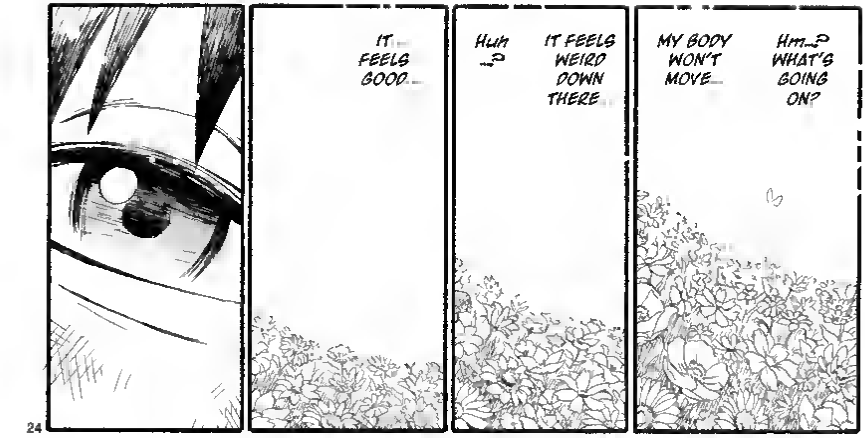
Oh?
I'M...
...WITH YOU.
IT'S OKAY...


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WH...


I'M SORRY-- I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO ANYTHING SINCE WE STARTED MIDDLE SCHOOL
Ha ha ha!
YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE.
Huh...?
BUT NOW I'M GOING TO SAVE YOU...

YOU'RE WRONG...
...FROM THIS HORRIBLE...
...BULLYING!
YOU'RE WRONG...
23
AND THEN THE TWO OF US TOGETHER, LIKE BEFORE--
YOU'RE WRONG!!

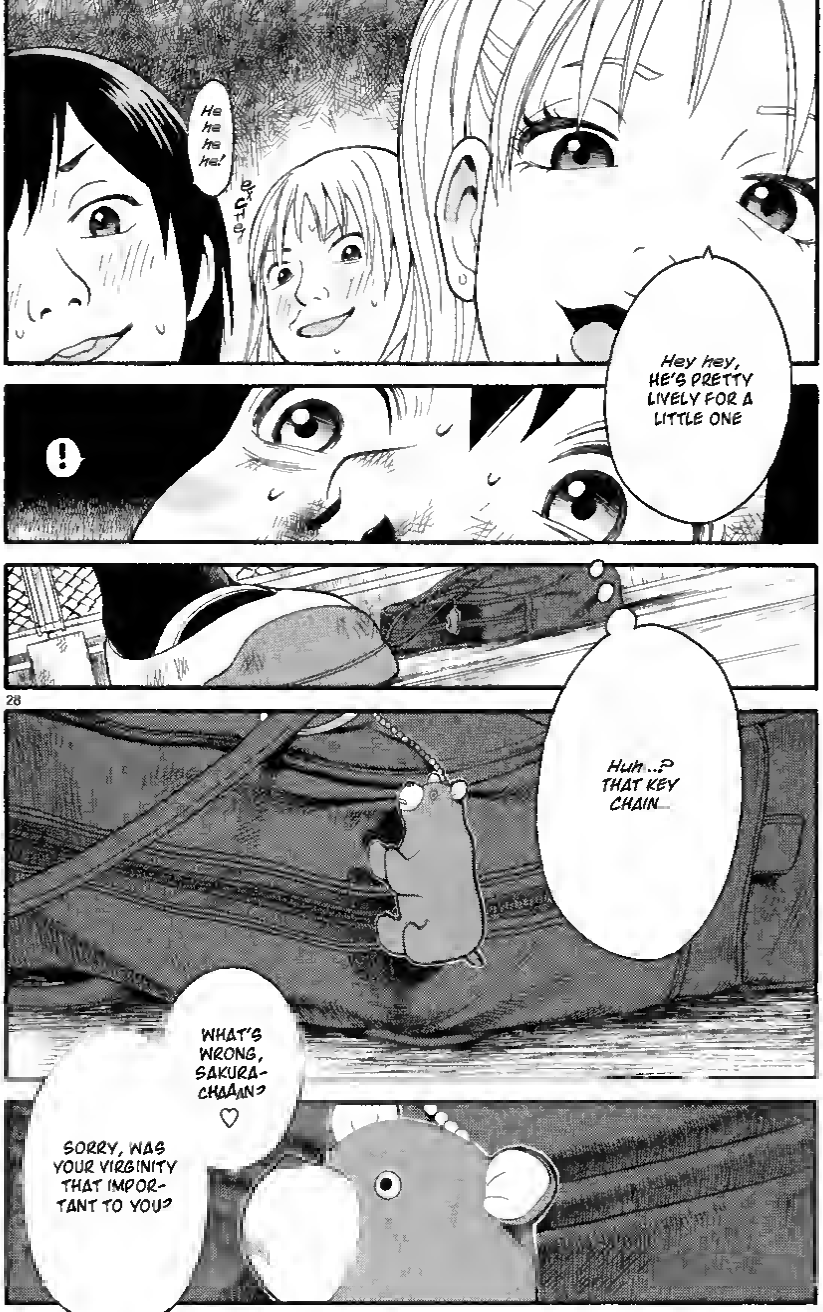

Hey, SAKURA-CHAN.
I JUST HAD THIS REALLY GOOD IDEA ♡
IT'LL BE REALLY FUN.
...BUT I DON'T WANT TO FORCE YOU TO DO ANYTHING YOU DON'T WANT TO.
BUT SINCE YOU'RE SO AGREEABLE, I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE IT, TOO.


IT... FEELS GOOD...
Huh ...?
IT FEELS WEIRD DOWN THERE...
MY BODY WON'T MOVE...
Hm...? WHAT'S GOING ON?

24

THIS IS JUST A GAME...
A JOKE.
A MEANINGLESS JOKE JOKE JOKE JOKE JOKE...

ズクン
PANT
ドクン
ズクン
PANT
ドクン
ズクン
PANT
ドクン


He he he he!
Ex cit e?
Hey hey, HE'S PRETTY LIVELY FOR A LITTLE ONE
!
28
Huh...? THAT KEY CHAIN...
WHAT'S WRONG, SAKURA-CHAAAN? ♡
SORRY, WAS YOUR VIRGINITY THAT IMPOR-TANT TO YOU?

PANT
ドクン
ドクン
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
ドクン
ドクン
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
Ah!

IN...

That moment, out of nowhere, I had this thought
"How long has it been since I've seen Sakura this close up?"
HOW DO YOU FEEL?

...TO DO IT WITH YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND?
HOW DOES IT FEEL...

I just want to laugh with Sakura like before...
SA...
SAKURA
Is my wish that impossible?
Even... Even if it really is impossible...

dash!
I will...
I still want to save her... I will help Sakura!
36
YOU'RE A DAMN HANDFUL.

Chapter 2: Foul Fly

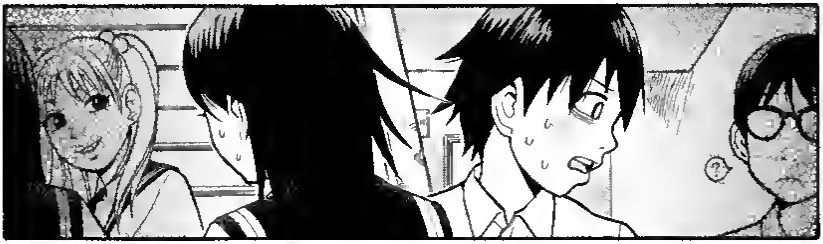
I, Hayashi Susumu, and my little brother Tsutomu were born in the same year, on the same day, within the same hour
For as long as I can remember, Sakura was with us. The three of us grew up together.
But when I was ten years old, Tsutomu disappeared. From that moment on, Sakura and I began to drift apart
MAYUMI TSUTOMU
FOR THIS CHILD. IF YOU HAVE SEEN HIM, PLEASE CONTACT US.
TELEPHONE XXX-(XXX)-XXXX
POLICE DEPARTMENT
And then around the time I entered middle school Tsutomu reappeared in front of me

However, he was stuck inside a mirror...
The Tsutomu that appears in the mirror looks older than the last time I saw him.
But in reality, the Tsutomu inside the mirror is just like any 14-year-old and...
...I'm probably the one who hasn't changed since then.

Chapter 2: Foul Fly

Fuhahaha! YOU CANNOT KILL ME!
SUSUMU, ARE YOU INVINCIBLE ?!
Ha ha!

!!
IT'S REALLY HELPFUL HAVING SAKURA-CHAN AROUND
REALLY CONVE-NIENT, RIGHT? Gyaha-haha!
SAKURA!!
ドキッ



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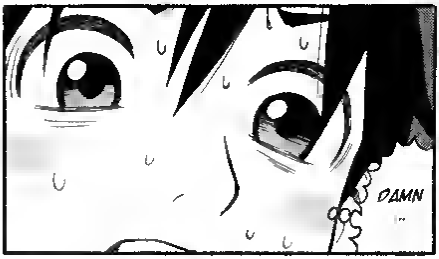
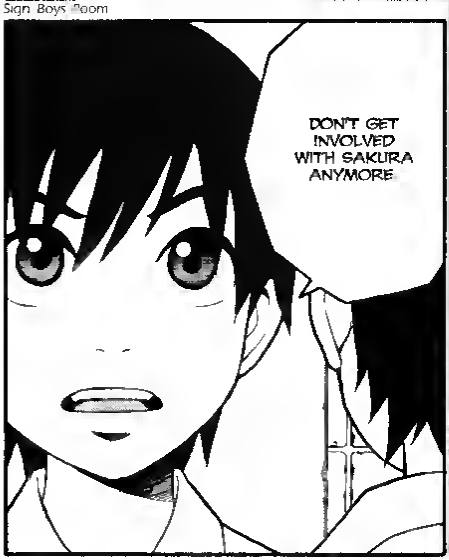
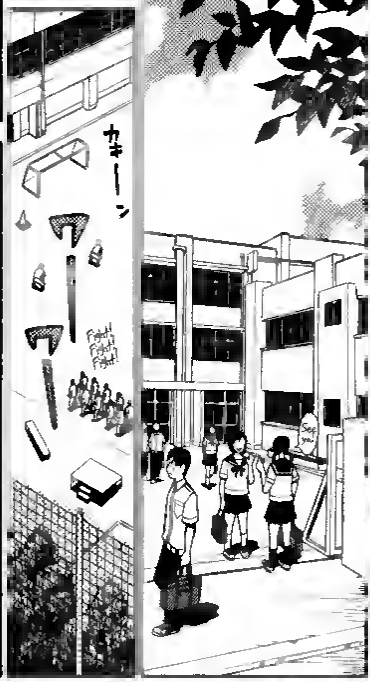

DAMN...

AN OPENING!
OUCH!

YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL?
GYA HA HA HA HA
WHAT'S WRONG, SAKURA-CHAN?

Sign: Boys' Room

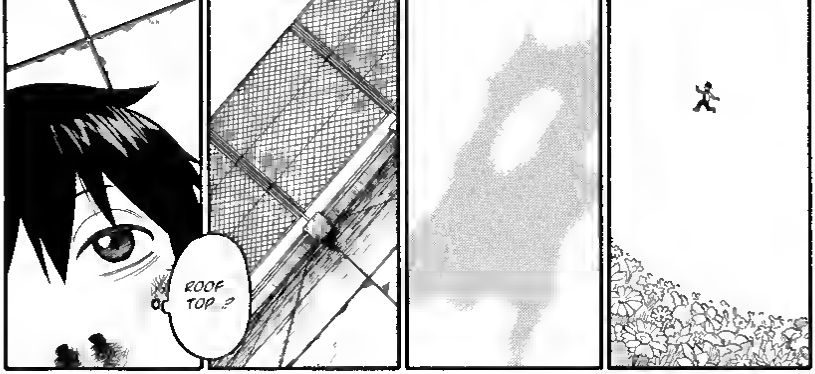




YOU GOT TO DO IT WITH HER. THAT SHOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH.
WASN'T THAT YOUR GOAL ALL ALONG?
!!
DO...
HOKE HOKE
DON'T YOU DARE...!
ゴ!
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
キン

I'LL DO WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT!
SHUT UP! GO AWAY! I WON'T BELIEVE THAT!
IF YOU KEEP TRYING TO INTERFERE, YOU AND SAKURA WILL BOTH BE MISERABLE.
grin
SHUT UP! IT'S OVER! DON'T SHOW YOUR FACE AGAIN!
WELL, IT PROBABLY WON'T WORK...
8
ALL RIGHT.
Oh!

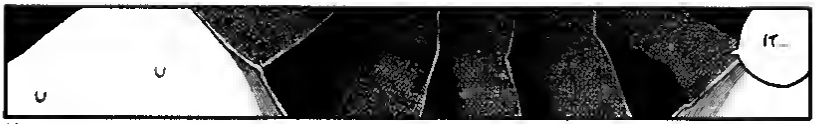
ガラッ
2-B
OH, YEAH
MY BOOK-BAG...
DON'T SHOW YOUR FACE AGAIN!
IT'S OKAY! I CAN DO THIS ON MY OWN...
9
ドカ


ROOF TOP..?

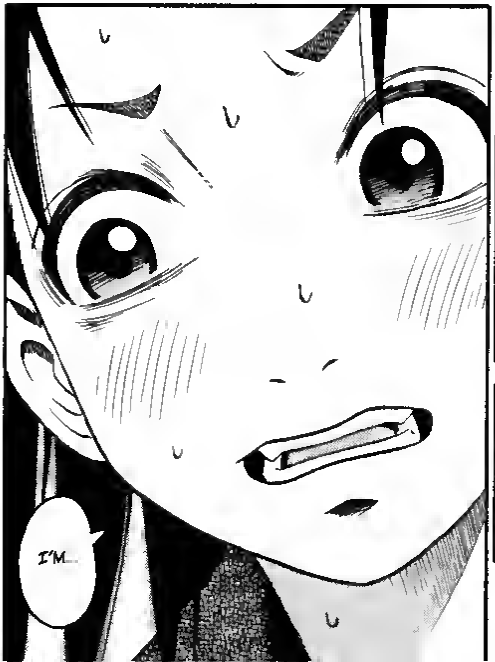
SHUF
SHUF
Omw !!
SA
SAKURA
WHY

YESTERDAY AND TODAY...
GHHI
I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO!
I-I'VE BEEN THE ONE RAPING YOU...
...ALL ALONG !!
PANT

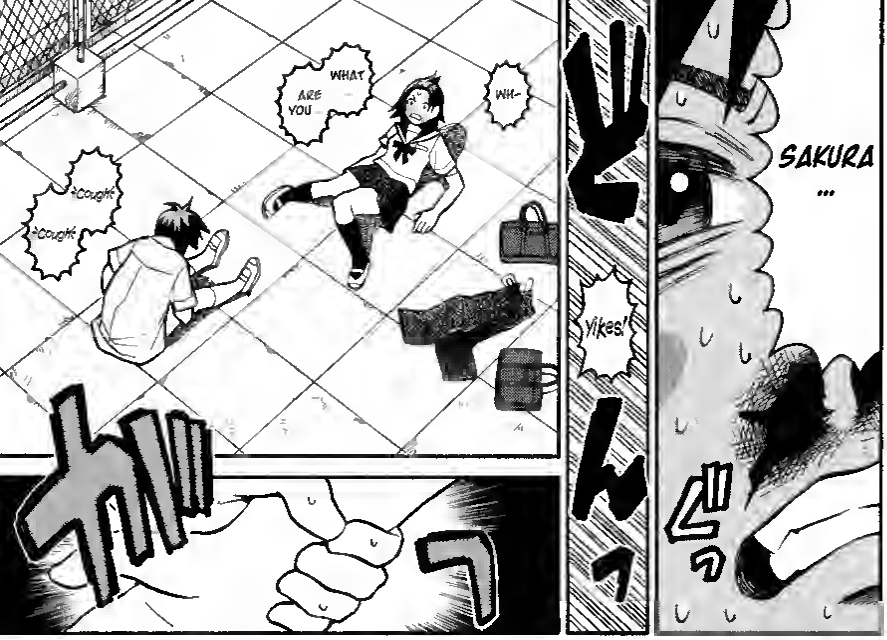
Ghh... SO... SOMEONE'S COMING, SAKURA...
!!
I'D SAY THAT WAS REALLY STUPID!!
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

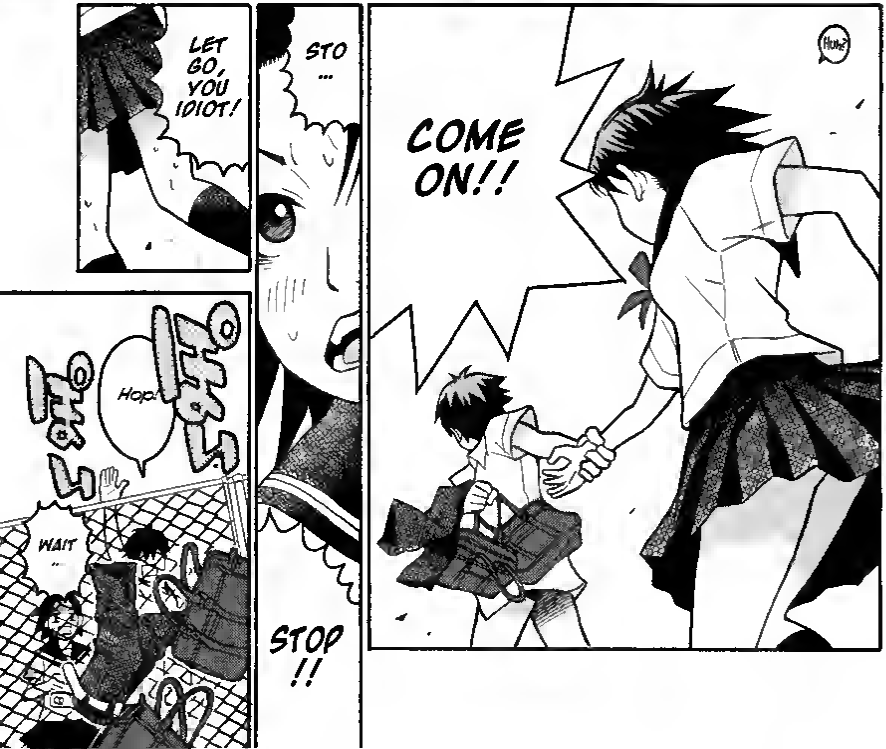

IT...

14


I'M...

IT DOESN'T MATTER.
Ha ha!
I WON'T LET ANYTHING AFFECT ME.
Gyahh! Haha!


SAKURA
...
Yikes!
WHAT ARE YOU
WH-
Cough
Cough


COME ON!!
Huh?
STO ...
LET GO, YOU IDIOT!
STOP !!
Hop
WAIT ...

16

* Translator's Note: It would make more sense to say "jump" but the author specifically uses "fly"

HUH?
FLY.
ガシ
!?

ゴォォォ

カサカサカサカサ
ドドド

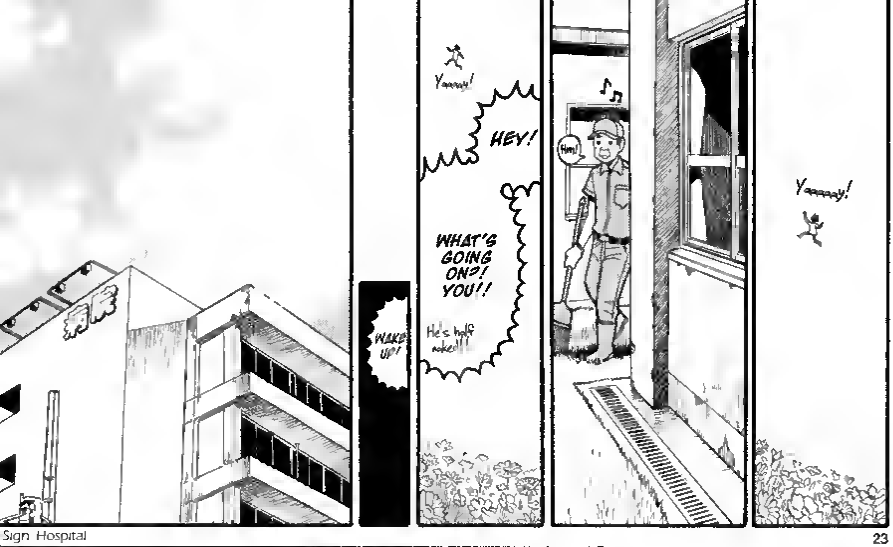
Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!
Pff...
Huh...?
Ha ha!
Hii Hii
Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!

Ha ha ha ha ha ha!
giggle giggle
...ha ha ha ha!
Ha ha ha...

ha...
Ha ha ha ha ha!
I'M GOING HOME
Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!

STOP LAUGHING ALREADY, YOU SCUM.

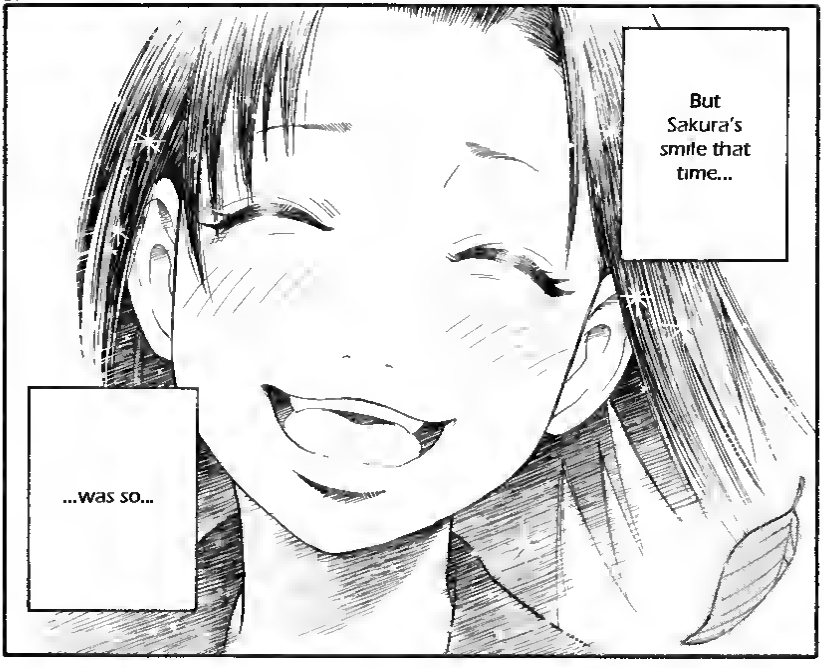
...!!
THERE WE GO.
OH, NO UNDER-WEAR...
WHAAAAAAAT?!


Yaaaay!
HEY!
WHAT'S GOING ON?! YOU!!
He's half naked!!!
WAKE UP!
Yaaaay!

YOU FELL, STRAIGHT DOWN.
HA HA HA HA!
YOU DIDN'T FLY.
HAHAHAHA! I TOLD YOU SO, DIDN'T I?
KIDS ALWAYS TRY TO GLOSS IT OVER LIKE THAT.
SHUT UP!
But I think Sakura really laughed from her heart that time.
Hayashi Susumu

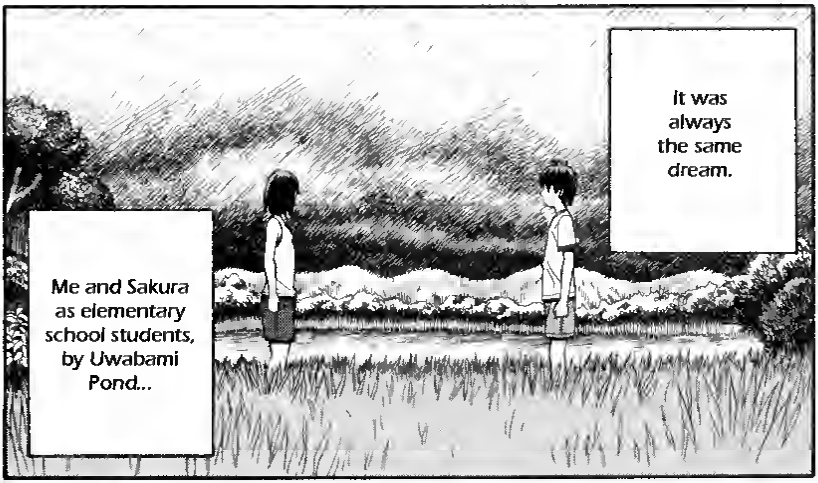
Maybe I really am avoiding that.
GROW UP, huh...?
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU REALLY CAN'T GROW UP WITHOUT ME AROUND
I THINK I'LL BE STICKING AROUND FOR A WHILE
But...

24


But Sakura's smile that time...
...was so...

Chapter 3: Silent

During the short time I was in the hospital, I did a lot of dreaming.



That dream... What was it about?

However, every time I woke up, I was always crying.
Sakura was saying something to me, but...
...I always forgot what she said after I woke up...

After my injuries healed and I went back to school, I became known as the "stupid kid who climbed up a tree by himself and fell."
Ahaha-haha!
TANAKA
HERE
SUGU-MU
HOW WAS THE NURSE?
TSUJI
HERE
KNOCK IT OFF!
Well, before that I was just the "stupid kid."
TOYAMA SAKURA
TOYAMA

THE HANDOUTS FOR THE TIME YOU WERE HOSPITALIZED?
I GAVE THEM TO TOYAMA-SAN SINCE SHE'S ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED THEM?
SAKURA, I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?
OH, RIGHT
I WAS TOLD THAT SHE WAS GOING TO BE ABSENT

THAT'S REALLY UNUSUAL FOR HER. SHE'S ALWAYS RECEIVED THE PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARD.
HUH...?
OH, THAT WORKS THEN. CAN YOU TAKE THIS TO HER HOUSE?
SHE'S ABSENT TODAY BECAUSE OF A COLD.
..
DOES SAKURA REALLY HAVE A COLD?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, TSUTOMU?
4
SAKURA WOULD BE THE LAST PERSON TO DO THAT.
YOU'RE THINKING SHE'S STAYING HOME BECAUSE THE BULLYING IS GETTING SO BAD?

BUT, MAYBE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE MY FACE ANYMORE...
WITH WHAT HAPPENED...
THAT MIGHT BE TRUE
I'M SICK AND TIRED OF YOUR STUPID FACE, TOO.
YOU'RE MY TWIN SO YOU HAVE THE SAME FACE.
Pow
HA HA HA HA!
SHH!
MAMA!
Mwah! Mwah!

Ding Dong!

とろ～～ん
Gloomy
WILL SHE ANSWE...?
ドキドキ
ガチャ
Ah!

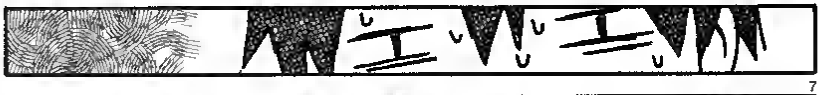
BO-bump

6

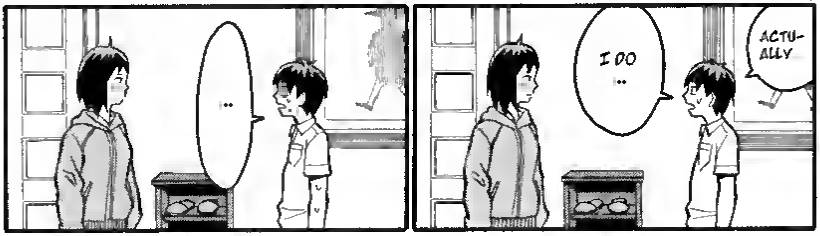
Phew
Huh?
Oh!
I CAN'T REACH IT.
AND, um, MY HAND-OUTS AND STUFF...
U-um, THIS, FROM SENSEI
Stare
ドキドキ
ドキドキ

I'M ALLOWED IN..
そわそわ
O-
OKAY
SIGH JUST GO UPSTAIRS FIRST
YOU CAME TO GET THE HANDOUTS AND STUFF TOO, RIGHT? THERE'S QUITE A FEW

YOU DON'T WANT ANY, RIGHT?
Y-YEAH
Ow!!
I'M GOING TO DRINK HOT COCOA
?
?
YOU DON'T NEED SLIPPERS, RIGHT?
HUH?!


エ

7


...
I DO ...
ACTU-ALLY

I I DON'T GET IT...
DIZZY
DIZZY
ガチャ
Tsk...
WHA ...?!
ウェェェ
Ah!

SMELLS GOOD

HELLO THERE!
It's been so long since I'd been in Sakura's room.
I just had a feeling it was "different."
I forgot what it was like before.

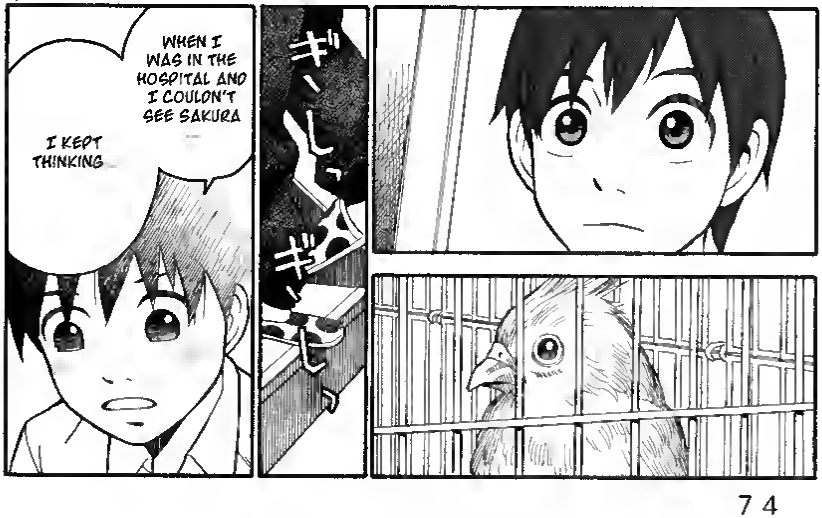
TSUTOMU
EVERYTHING ISN'T THE SAME AS BEFORE.

9

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...

I'VE DECIDED.
I'M GOING TO TELL SAKURA HOW I FEEL TODAY.

10


WHEN I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL AND I COULDN'T SEE SAKURA
I KEPT THINKING...
ギ、し、ギ

HUH?
YOU'VE NEVER ASKED SAKURA OUT PROPERLY?
THE REASON I CAN'T SAVE SAKURA IS...
...PROBABLY BECAUSE I HAVEN'T TOLD HER MY FEELINGS FOR HER...
MAYBE I DID THINGS OUT OF ORDER...
YEAH...
BUT I'LL TELL HER TODAY
I REALLY SHOULD HAVE STARTED THERE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, TSUTOMU?
Halt
!

I REALLY DON'T KNOW.

WHAT? THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
...?!

ガ!!
?
ガ…
!!
ば…
ず…
ドサ!!
ガ…
☆!!
owww !!

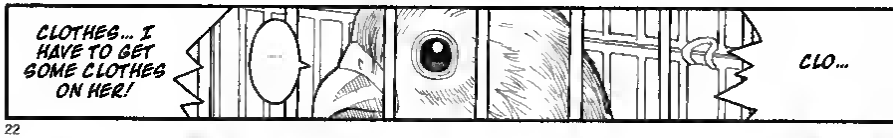
TSUTOMU!
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
!!
I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU!
TSUTOMU!
TSUTOMU!
I REALLY ...
...HAVE TO BE WITH YOU, TSUTOMU!
TSUTOMU!
TSUTOMU!
ずるずる
ずるずる

...LIKE TSUTOMU.
SORRY... I...
19
18

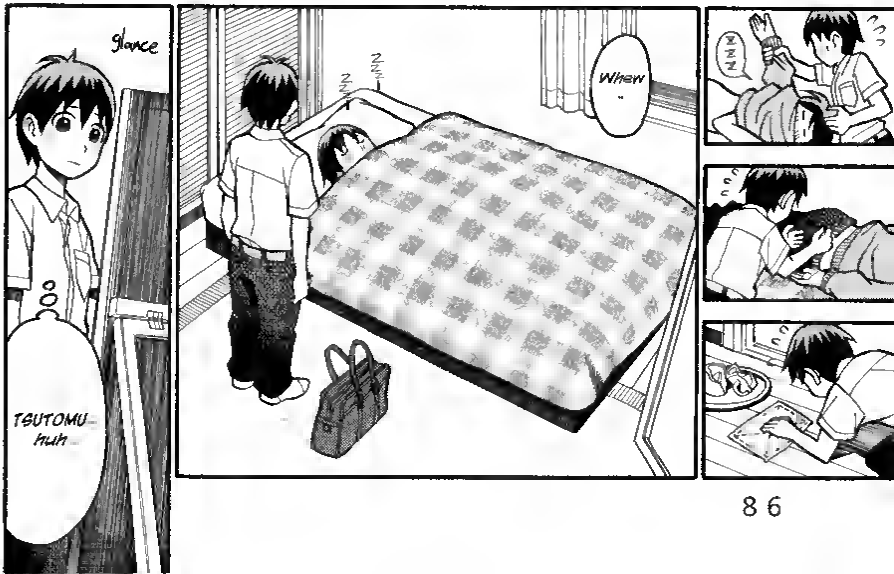
ZZZZZZZ
...!!
WAS THAT ...?!
Was that the memory of my dream? Or was it...
WHA ...?!

Or was it something that actually occurred in the past?
Mmmbl, mmbl... TaUTOMu...
No, it's probably the same either way...

ぺろり
Gasp
!!
REALLY HIGH FEVER !!
THIS ISN'T GOOD!


CLOTHES... I HAVE TO GET SOME CLOTHES ON HER!
CLO...

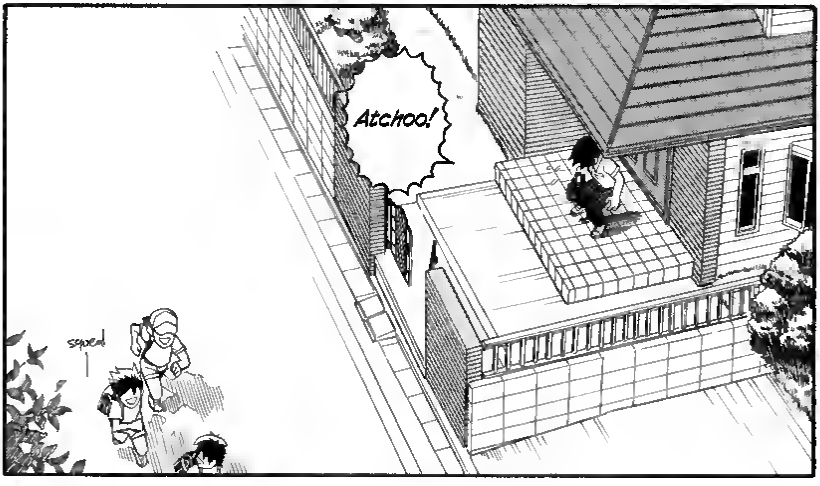
22


Glance
TSUTOMU... huh...
Whew..
ZZZ

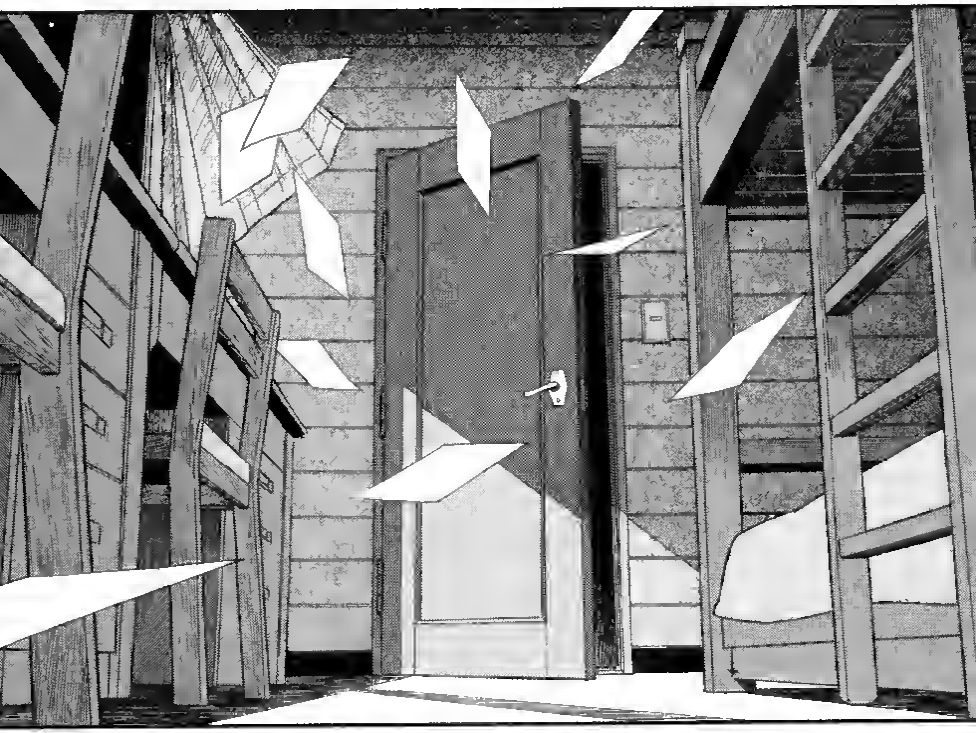
BYE
Uh!
I wonder how much Sakura will remember about today?
Hmm
And then...
What can I do for Sakura after this...?
Sakura

I feel light-headed...
Maybe because I've been hitting my head too much lately...

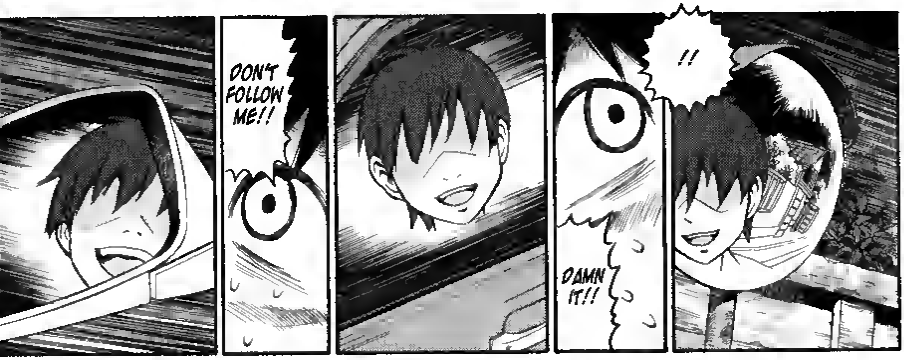
24


Atchoo!
sqeal

Chapter 4:
Dance in the Dark



た、た、た、た、た、た、
YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE.
THIS IS JUST A GAME... A JOKE
A MEANING-LESS JOKE JOKE JOKE JOKE JOKE
I-I'VE BEEN THE ONE RAPING YOU...
...ALL ALONG !!
pant
pant
pant
pant
pant
I REALLY HAVE TO BE WITH YOU, TSUTOMU!



How did this happen?

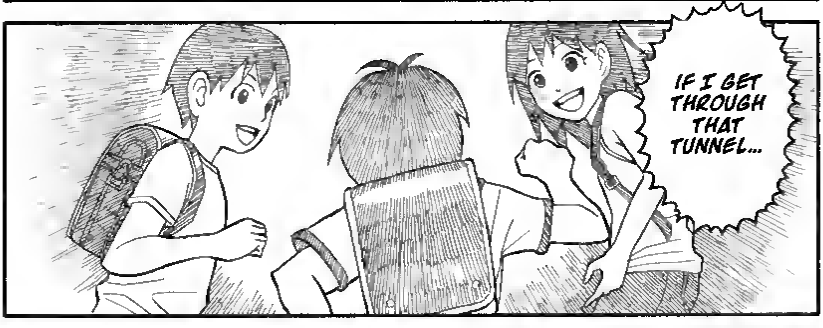
I have to go back there...

To Uwabami Pond

To that place that was special to us back then.

If I go there,
I'll understand "the real truth"...

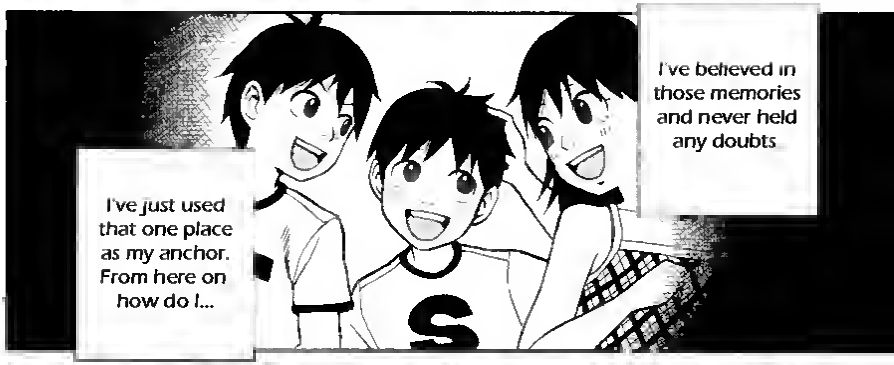
...about Tsutomu, about Sakura, and about myself.

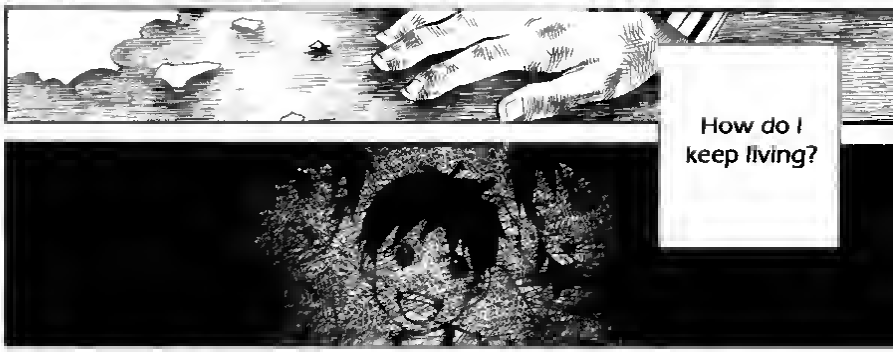


...the real truth will...

CLOSED DUE TO
INSTABILITY
MANAGEMENT
DO NOT ENTER
...!!
ガくん
ハア
ハア
ハア
ズキン
ズキン
Ugh...
ビキ!!

I don't know what's real anymore...
はあ
はあ
はあ

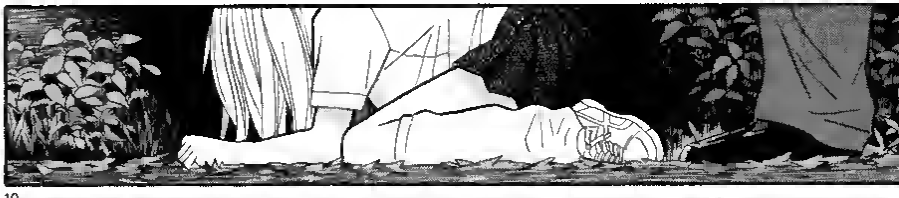

I've just used that one place as my anchor. From here on how do I...
I've believed in those memories and never held any doubts


How do I keep living?

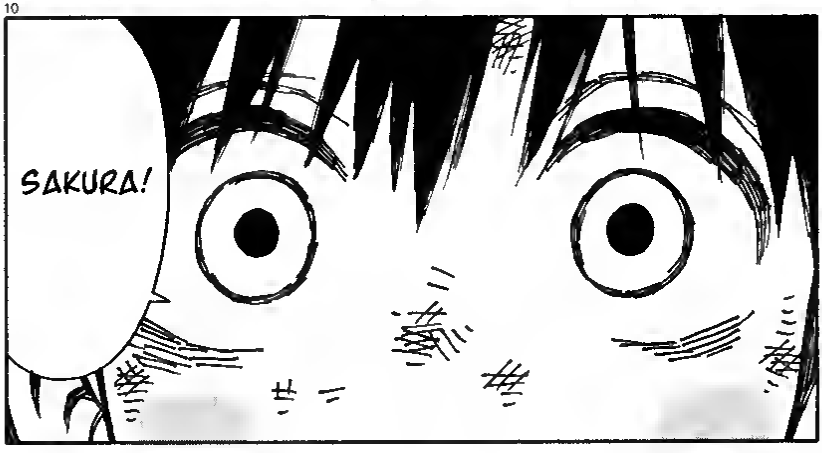
DON'T FUCK WITH ME!
KAFF KAFF
GYEEH

?
I'M LEAVING!
SOME-ONE'S HERE
WAIT, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED ME TO TAKE YOU SOME-WHERE!
SO I JUST MET YOU TODAY AND IT'S ALREADY COME TO THIS?!
Give me a break!
YOU FOLLOWED ME HERE WITH THE SAME INTENTIONS!
ALL THE KIDS THESE DAYS ARE GOING OUT WITH OLDER GUYS!
I'M NOT LIKE THAT, SO DON'T FUCK WITH ME!

ALL GUYS ARE JERKS!
GOD, I FEEL SO DUMB! TO HAVE BELIEVED EVEN FOR A MOMENT...



10



I MUST HELP HER.
THIS TIME, FOR SURE
THAT'S RIGHT, I MUST SAVE SAKURA
IF I DO THAT, THEN
HEY, WAIT!
LOOK CAREFULLY!
THAT GIRL ISN'T SAKURA.

THAT'S NIIJIMA NANA!
SHE'S THE ONE WHO DID ALL THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS TO YOU AND SAKURA!

BESIDES, THERE'S NO WAY SAKURA WOULD BE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
SUSUMU?
SAKURA
HEY!!

I'M HERE TO SAVE YOU.
!!

MOVE
WE'RE GOING HOME TOGETHER.
WH... WHAT?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
13
FEEL BETTER?
HURRY UP AND GET LOST
WHUH ...?!
ぼた ぼた
Aah...

WHAT KIND OF FREAK ARE YOU?!
pant
pant
pant
YOU'RE FUCKING SICK!!
Ugh!!
Haha!
IT'S NOT PAINFUL AT ALL...
...WHEN IT'S JUST MY BODY THAT HURTS...

GYAAH!
SHOCK!!
Uwah! MY G-SHOCK!
WHAT THE FUCK?!
BRAGHK!
GOD DAMN IT!
koff koff
He he he he he!
IT'S... OKAY NOW.
PANT
FROM HERE ON...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
...I'll...
15

I'LL PROTECT YOU BY MYSELF...
SAKURA
HUH?
WHAT ?!

Hey, hey!
SNAP OUT OF YOUR DAYDREAM ALREADY!
ほわ～～ん
I CAN DO IT MYSELF, TOO...
WHAT THE HELL IS HE SAYING...?!
SO THERE'S NO NEED FOR TSUTOMU...
BEHIND YOU...!
AH!
THAT'S NOT SAKURA!
BESIDES ...

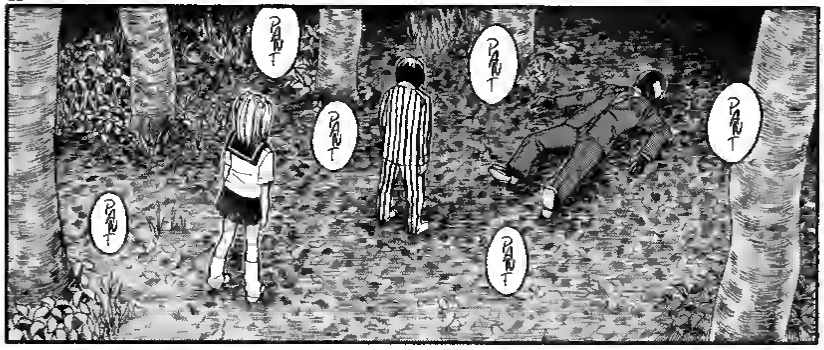
RIGHT?
SAKURA LIKES ME ANYWAY ...
OW!
WHA?

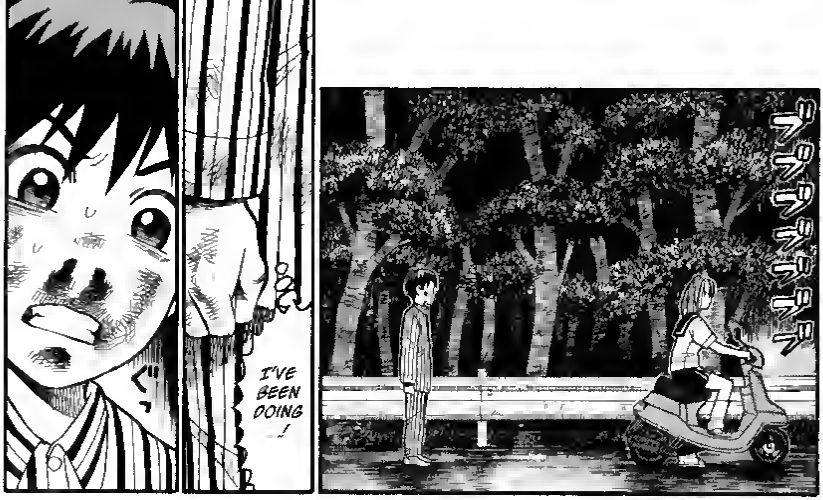
DAMN YOU!
DAMN YOU!
DAMN YOU!
DAMN YOU!
DAMN YOU!
DAMN YOU!
ACK
WAAAAAAH!!
STOP IT!

HE'S GONNA DIE!
THAT'S ENOUGH!

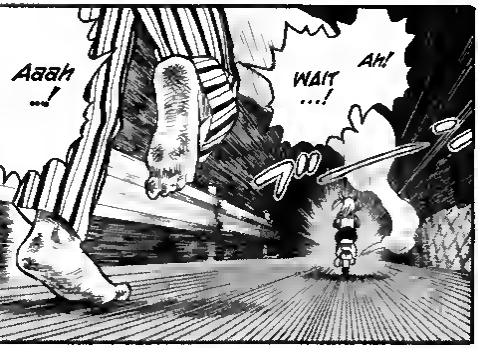
じん…じん…
ぐったり
Ugh…!
はぁはぁ
NIIJIMA NANA?
Huh ...?!

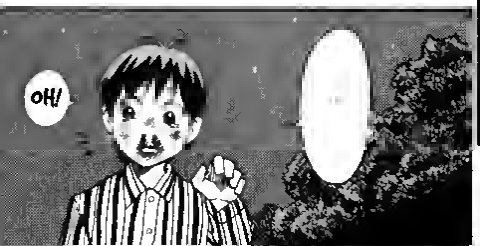
22


ラン!
ラン!
ラン!
ラン!
ラン!
ラン!

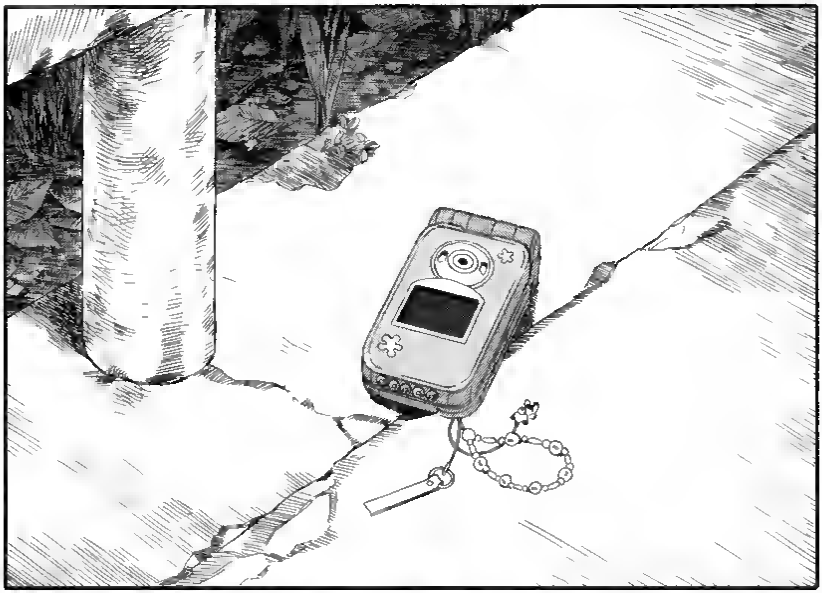

I'VE BEEN DOING...!
ブブブブブブブ

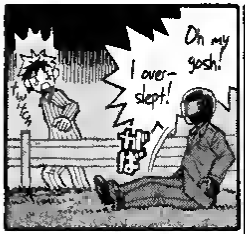
ABOUT SAKURA...
Oh!
O-


Aaah...!
WAIT...!
Ah!


oh!

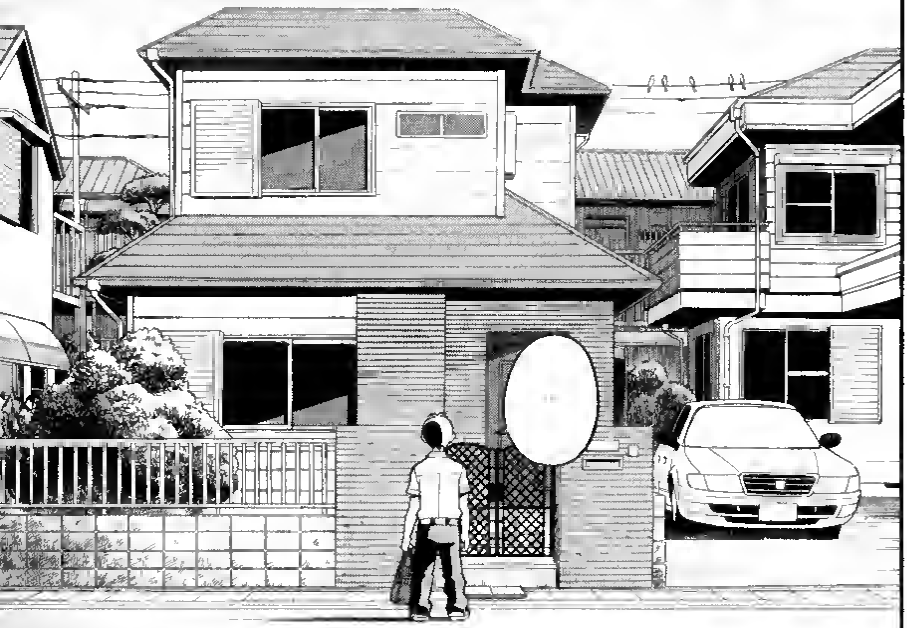
DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT!
Huh?!





24

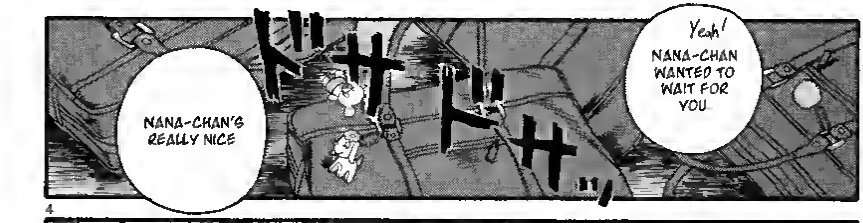
Chapter 5: Fanfare



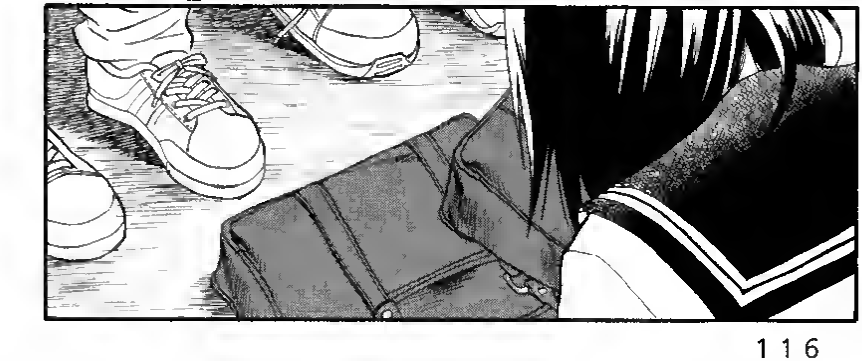
I'M LEAVING BYE
Oh...
Um...
SAKURA, MORN--
Huh?
WAIT ...!
WA...

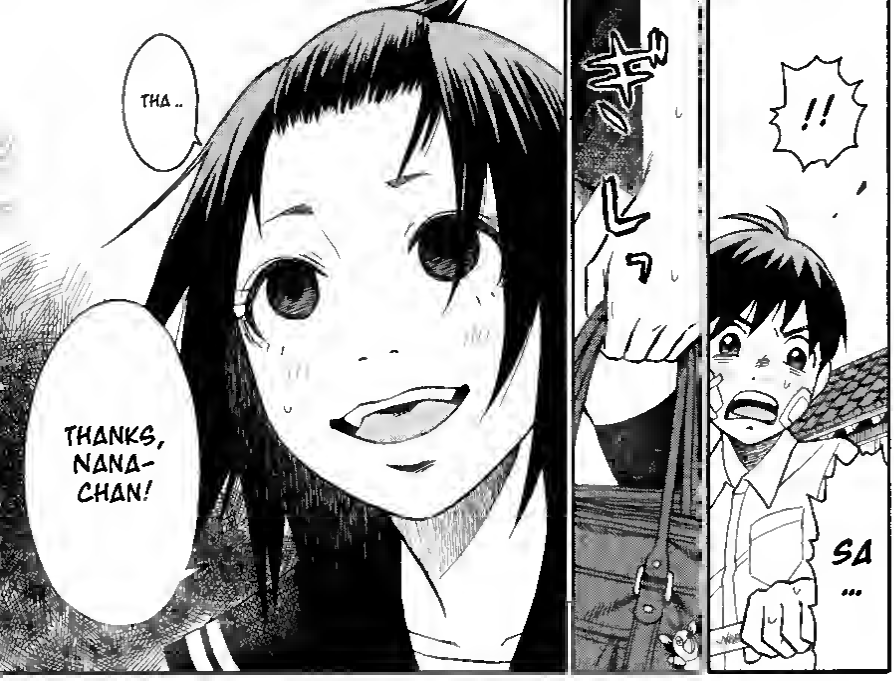
SAKURA! I NEED TO TALK TO YOU!
I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO EVERY-THING!
ナミ
ぴらっ
Ugh!
SA...

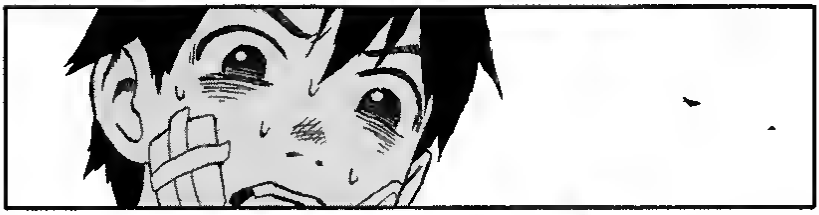
...!
すたっ
SHE JUST GOT OVER HER COLD ...!
Ah...
YOU'RE LATE
hff hff
SO-
SORRY
WE WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE WITHOUT YOU


Yeah! NANA-CHAN WANTED TO WAIT FOR YOU
NANA-CHAN'S REALLY NICE

4




THA..
THANKS, NANA-CHAN!
ガラ
!!
SA...



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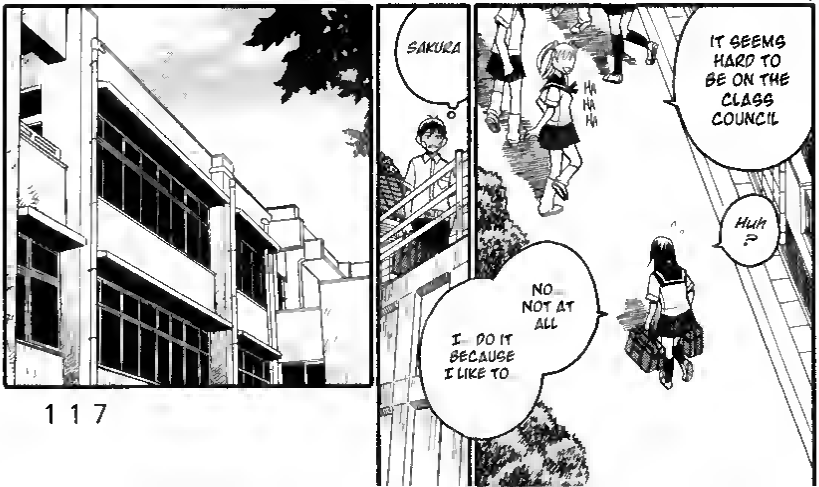
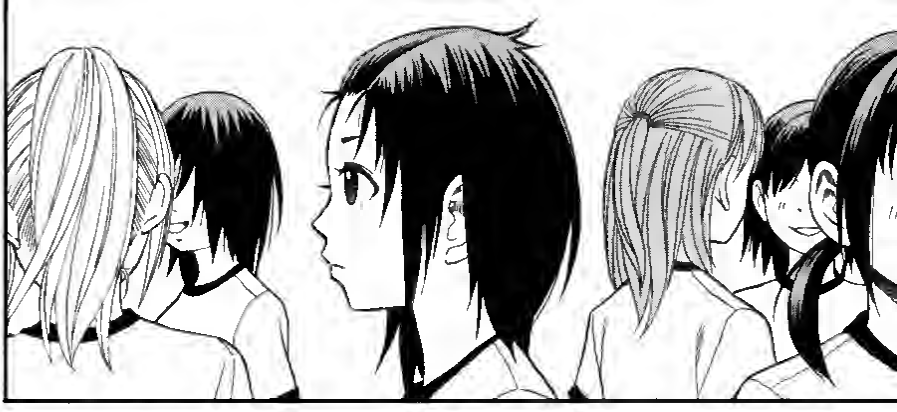
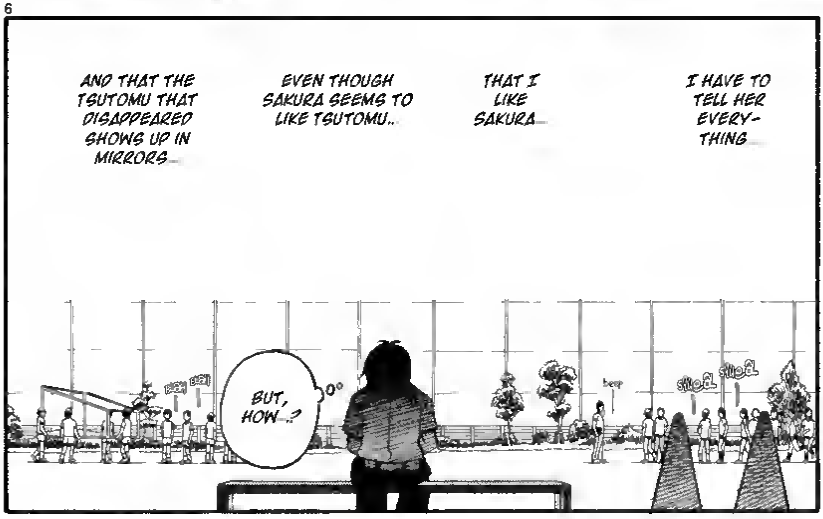

SAKURA
IT SEEMS HARD TO BE ON THE CLASS COUNCIL
HAHAHA
HUH?
NO... NOT AT ALL
I DO IT BECAUSE I LIKE TO



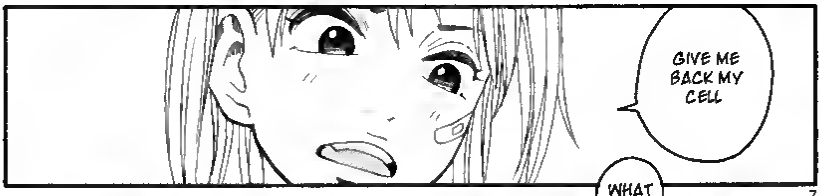
Shhh! SOMEONE'S GONNA HEAR!
giggle
giggle
WHAAAT, ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

I HAVE TO TALK TO SAKURA...
SOME-HOW...

6


AND THAT THE TSUTOMU THAT DISAPPEARED SHOWS UP IN MIRRORS...
EVEN THOUGH SAKURA SEEMS TO LIKE TSUTOMU..
THAT I LIKE SAKURA...
I HAVE TO TELL HER EVERY-THING...
BUT, HOW..?
pass
pass
kick
kick

O-oh
Ah!
Aiee!
Huh

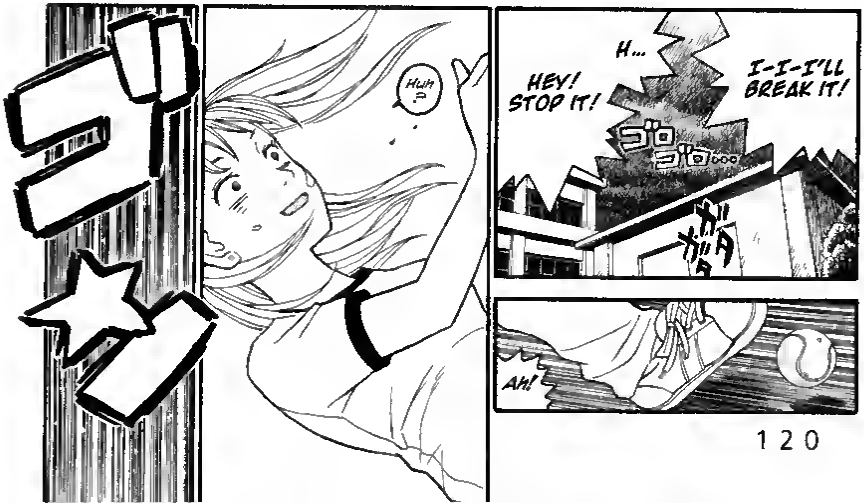

GIVE ME BACK MY CELL

WHAT?
GIVE IT BACK NOW!
Hah!
I-I CAN'T

Heh Heh
WHAT? IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A THREAT?
SORRY?
I'LL TELL EVERYONE ABOUT YESTERDAY!
OR I...
S-SAY YOU'LL STOP BULLYING SAKURA!

N-NO!
EX
clutch clutch
JUST HURRY UP AND GIVE IT BACK!

8


ゴー
Huh?
HEY! STOP IT!
H...
I-I-I'LL BREAK IT!
ゴロ ゴロ...
AH!

キャー
IS SHE DEAD?!
...
Yikes!
Hah!
Uwawahh!
SAKURA!

ダッ
Ah ...!

WAIT!

IT'S ABOUT TSUTOMU...
I
I HAVE SOME-THING TO TELL YOU

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR TSUTOMU'S NAME..
Hehe.
...COME FROM YOUR MOUTH.

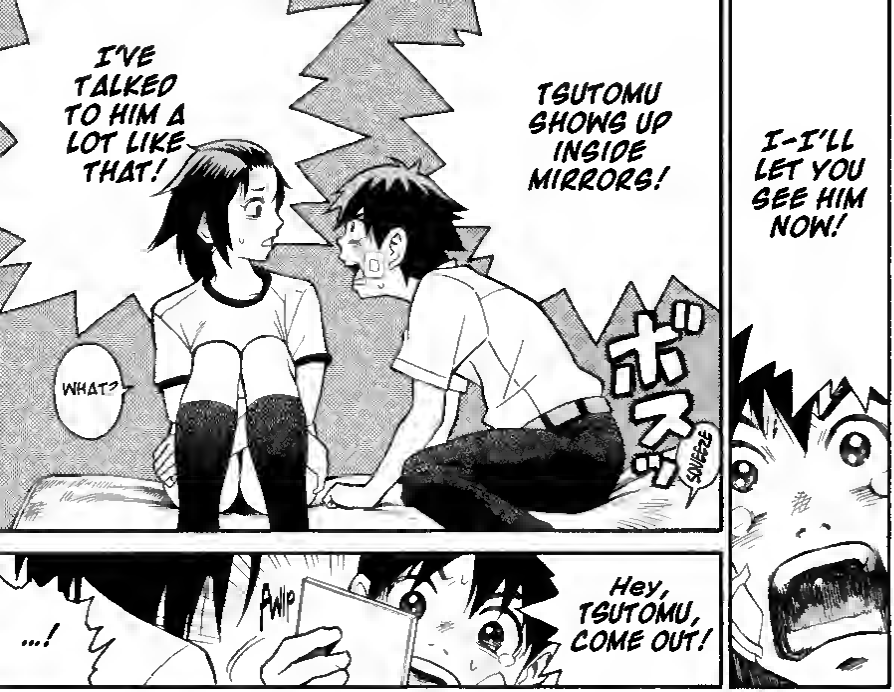
I THOUGHT YOU FORGOT
WHA?!
ABOUT TSUTOMU...
CRAP, I FORGOT...!
ドテドテ
ゼハゼハ
ギクッ!

TH...
!

BECAUSE TSUTOMU'S ALWAYS RIGHT HERE!
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD FORGET
BECAUSE

Ooof.
POMP
NIIJIMA NANA'S RIGHT THERE!
AH!
OOO
HUH?
I THINK SO TOO
THIS IS BAAAAAAAD.
13
..TSUTOMU WILL COME BACK LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.
AS LONG AS WE KEEP THAT IN MIND..

FOR THAT REASON WE HAVE TO...
...STAY THE WAY WE WERE BACK THEN.
SAKURA...
RIGHT NOW, SAKURA IS...
BUT...
14
I'M DOING EVERYTHING OUT OF MY OWN FREE WILL!
I'M DOING IT BECAUSE I WANT TO...
WE WERE JUST PLAYING AROUND...
AH...


I'VE TALKED TO HIM A LOT LIKE THAT!
TSUTOMU SHOWS UP INSIDE MIRRORS!
I-I'LL LET YOU SEE HIM NOW!
WHAT?
ボス
SQUEEZE
...!
PWIP
Hey, TSUTOMU, COME OUT!
COME OUT AND TALK TO SAKURA, TSUTOMU!

SORRY, I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT...
BUT, LISTEN
ガシャン

...SO THAT TSUTOMU CAN COME BACK ANYTIME.
RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE TO KEEP LIVING WITHOUT TSUTOMU...

...WHEN WE COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT TSUTOMU.
WE HAVE TO STAY THE WAY WE WERE BACK THEN...

I CAN'T WATCH!
BUT... THAT HAS TO BE TOO PAINFUL FOR SAKURA...
THAT'S WHY I...
I HAVE TO STAY THE WAY
I WAS WHEN ALL THREE OF US WERE TOGETHER
EVERYTHING I DO...
I DO OF MY OWN FREE WILL
!?

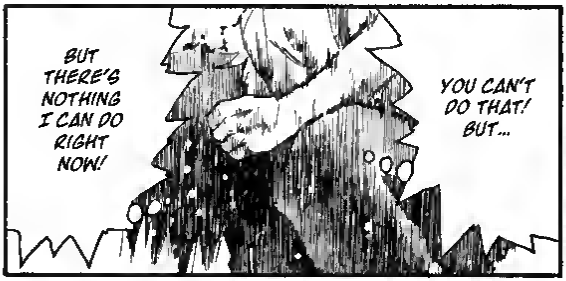
I'M NOT GOING TO FALL IN LOVE.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET SOMETHING THAT INCONVENIENT RULE MY WILL AND THOUGHTS.

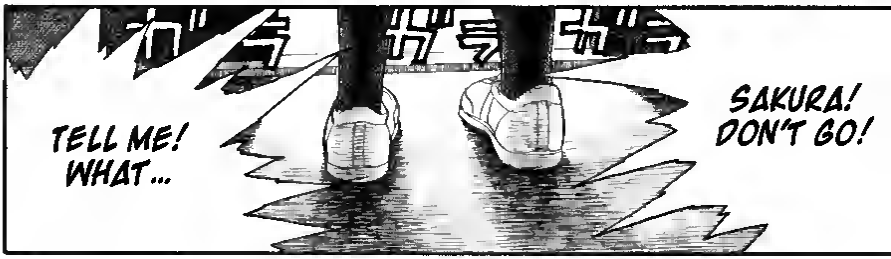
WITHOUT LOVE, I'M GOING TO KISS, AND HAVE SEX...
...AND EVEN GET MARRIED. I'M GOING TO STAY CLEAR-HEADED.

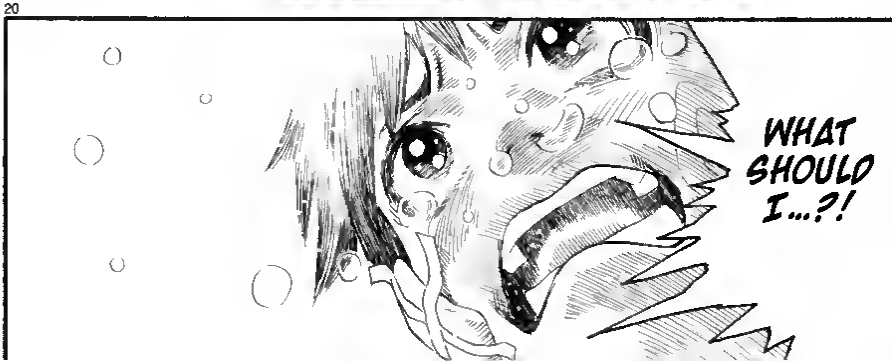
I SAID TOO MUCH.
He/he.

Uh...

SEE YOU.


BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO RIGHT NOW!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT! BUT...


TELL ME! WHAT...
SAKURA! DON'T GO!


WHAT SHOULD I...?!

WHY DON'T WE GO OUT?

?!

I'VE DECIDED.
LET'S GO OUT.

WON'T YOU HELP ME?

SO THAT MY WOUND NEVER CLOSES.

With that, Sakura
and I started
"formally dating."

IT'LL BE MORE FUN FOR ME IF IT'S GONNA MAKE THAT GIRL SUFFER EVEN MORE, SO I'M FINE WITH IT.
THIS IS SO DAMN FUNNY. ARE YOU SERIOUSLY GOING TO GO OUT WITH TOYAMA SAKURA?

Chapter 6: A Time That Starts to Trickle Away

THIS IS TOO FUNNY.
HOW CAN YOU GO OUT WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
THAT'S SO STUPID!
HA HA HA
"WITH ONLY MY WILL, I CAN KISS AND HAVE SEX, WITHOUT LOVE.."
BWA-

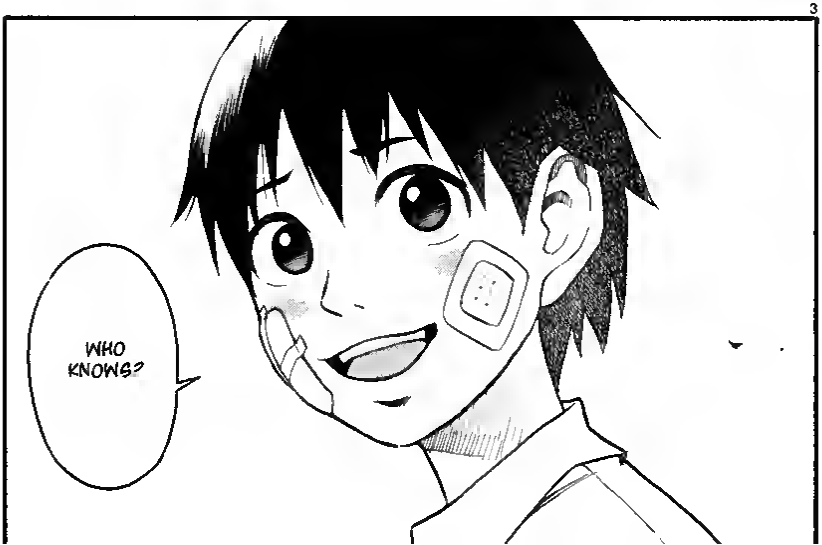
WE'LL GO OUT.

2

BUT I CAN'T LAUGH
GO AHEAD, THINK IT'S FUNNY

OH... HERE
THANKS
I HAVE TO DO WHAT I CAN
PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M "HAYASHI SUSUMU"

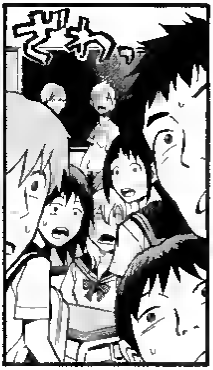
...THAT YOU GUYS WERE TALKING ABOUT?
WAIT.
WHO'S THIS "TSUTOMU" ...
Hey!


WHO KNOWS?

Chapter 6:
A Time That Starts to Trickle Away

Aside from the question of whether it's right or wrong...

...the way things are will surely change.



The way those around us acted also changed little by little.
So, my way!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, NANA-CHAN?
Sakura and I started to hang out together in the classroom as well.
Umm, SAKURA-CHAN...
LEAVE THEM ALONE. IT'S FUNNY.

COULD YOU EXPLAIN THIS PART TO ME?
SURE. WHAT PART?

SO IT'S ALL GOOD THEN.
ALL YOUR WISHES CAME TRUE. HAHA.

SAY WHAT YOU WANT. YOU CAN'T EVEN TALK TO SAKURA FROM INSIDE THE MIRROR...
BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S OKAY LIKE THIS?
...OR APPEAR IN FRONT OF HER IN PERSON TO SAVE HER THE WAY YOU ARE.
TSUTOMU.

...RELY ON YOU FOR ANYTHING!
THAT'S WHY I'M NOT GOING TO...

DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND WHY I CAME OUT LIKE THIS?
THAT'S SOME BIG TALK, MAN.

WHENEVER IT'S CONVENIENT FOR YOU.
YOU NEEDED IT, DIDN'T YOU? FOR ME TO COME OUT LIKE THIS.

THINK GOOD AND HARD ABOUT THAT.

Hehehe!
Oh!
NEW
COLD!
SUSUMU-KUN'S ACTING LIKE A GOODY-TWO-SHOES
Oh...
SAKURA'S BUYING SWEETS!

When Sakura's laughing, I forget about Tsutomu. I forget that she feels no love for me.
NO FAIR!
I CAN'T GIVE THIS TO A GOODY-TWO-SHOES
Aaaaawn♡
I'm such an idiot.

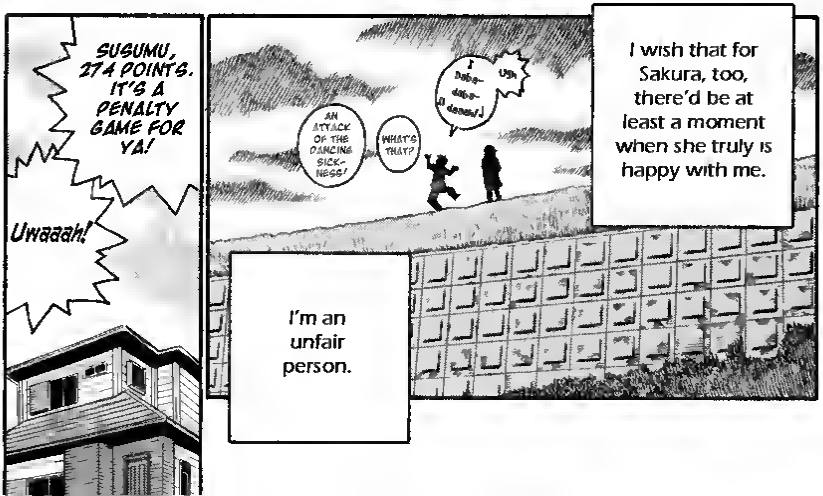
It feels like the time that had frozen in our minds is being thawed by the heat of our bodies and is starting to flow again.
IT'S MELTED!
Ahaha!
Sakura looks like she's "really" happy, and I become happy too.

It feels nice, but I think there's something wrong with it, too.

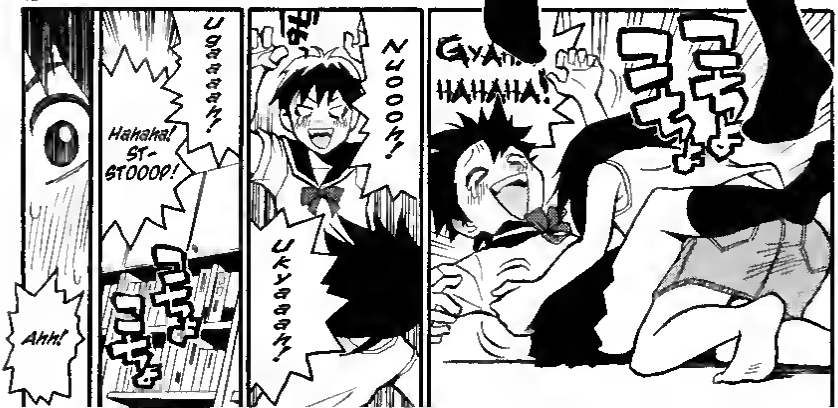
!
TSUTOMUUU!!

...
Ahaha, THAT DOG'S NAME IS TSUTOMU. THAT'S WEIRD.
RIGHT, SAKU--
GOOD BOY, TSUTOMU.
huff huff

But I can't just tell Sakura, "You're wrong."
SHE'S PROBABLY FORCING HERSELF...


SUSUMU, 27-4 POINTS. IT'S A PENALTY GAME FOR YA!
Uwaaah!
I wish that for Sakura, too, there'd be at least a moment when she truly is happy with me.
I'm an unfair person.
AN ATTACK OF THE DANCING SICK-NESS!
WHAT'S THAT?
I babe- ddo- n dance!
Um

DO I REALLY HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE LIKE THIS?
WHAT'S WITH THE FACE?
Ahahahahaha!
SO CUUUUTE!
LAUGH!
W-WAIT!


Ahh!
Hahaha! ST-STOOOP!
Uoooooh?!
Nuoooo?!
Ukyaaaa?!
Gyah! Hahaha!

...
BRRR
BRRR
TH... THAT WAS SO SOFT...

SO... SORRY!
ドキドキドキドキ

ドッ
ドッ
ドッ
ドッ
YO... YOUR HAIR ...
...

IT'S REALLY SILKY...

なでなで
IT FEELS GOOD TO HAVE YOUR HAIR TOUCHED, DOESN'T IT?

THE TIME STARTS FLOWING...
OOOOH NO... MY BRAIN'S MELTING...

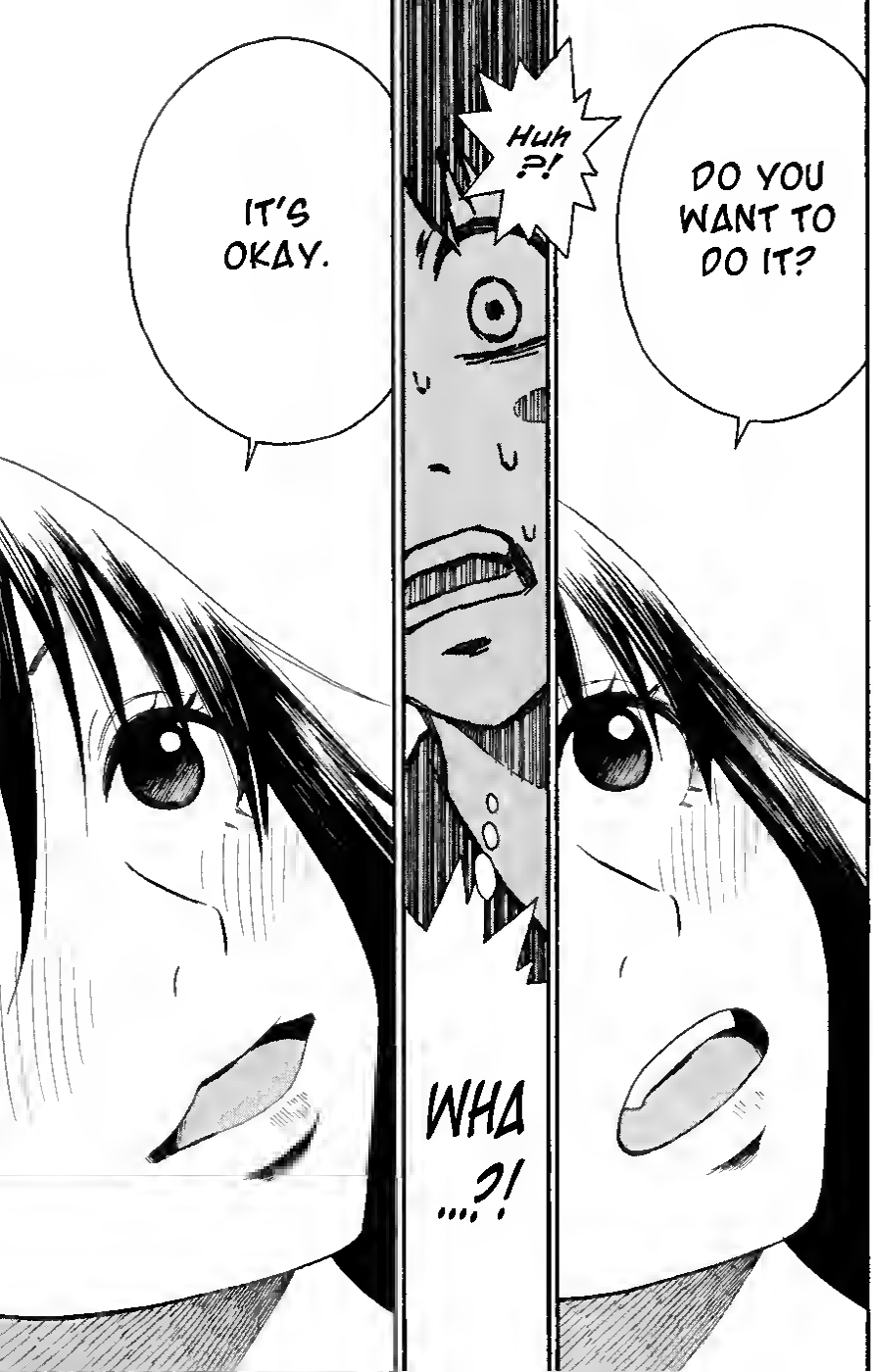
SAKURA...

SAKURA
...
I L--

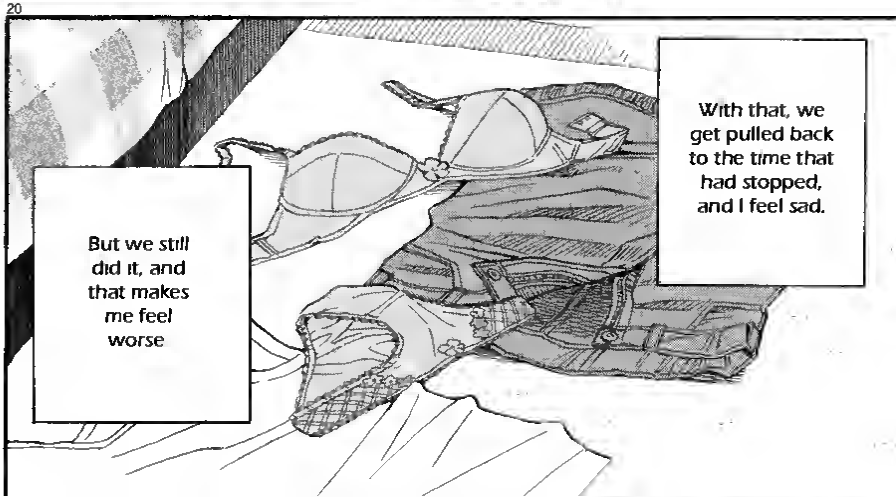
WHAT AM I TRYING TO SAY?!
Gasp!

18

IT'S NOTHING
Gulh...
huff huff
DAMN ...!

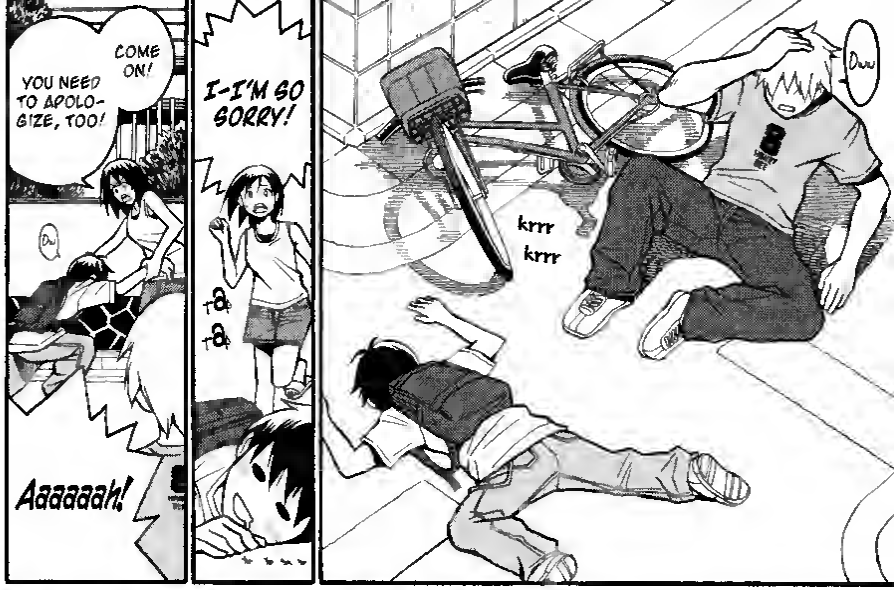

IT'S OKAY.
HUH ?!
DO YOU WANT TO DO IT?
WHA ...?!

NOT TSUTOMU ...
LET'S DO IT.
AFTER ALL, WE ARE GOING OUT.
N-NO, WE SHOULDN'T.
BECAUSE I'M SUSUMU AND...


But we still did it, and that makes me feel worse
With that, we get pulled back to the time that had stopped, and I feel sad.

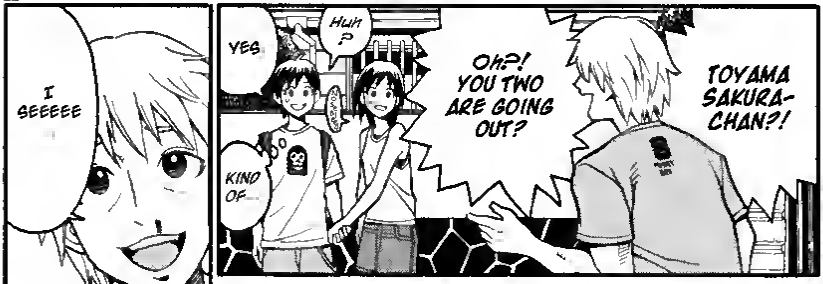
IT'S STARTING TO FEEL KIND OF GOOD
WHAT KIND OF FACE IS THAT?
ぼーん
OH, FORGET IT
ぼーん

Uuh...
ずりずり
SOMEONE, PLEASE RUN ME OVER—
GYAAH!


COME ON!
YOU NEED TO APOLOGIZE, TOO!
I-I'M SO SORRY!
Aaaaaah!
krrr
krrr
Ouw

Huh?
YOU'RE HAYASHI SUSUMU-KUN, RIGHT?!

22


I SEEEEE
YES
Huh?
KIND OF...
Oh?! YOU TWO ARE GOING OUT?
TOYAMA SAKURA-CHAN?!

YUP, YUP.
THAT'S GOOD!
WHA ...?!

WHY DOES HE KNOW ABOUT US...?
WHO WAS THAT PERSON...?
I FEEL LIKE I KNOW HIM...
I...
Huh?!

BE GOOD TO EACH OTHER
Wooh

DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE THAT TOO, SUSUMU?
I CAN'T REMEMBER WELL, BUT...
...I THINK...
..I MET HIM A LONG TIME AGO.

Chapter 7: Sunny

HUH?
HE WAS PROBABLY A COLLEGE STUDENT

THE GUY FROM THE OTHER DAY
"YOU'RE HAYASHI SUSUMU-KUN, RIGHT?!"
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT, TOO. I WONDER WHEN AND WHERE WE COULD'VE MET...
YOU WERE BOTHERED BY IT TOO, SAKURA?
WHAT?!
YEAH, PLUS HE WAS RATHER HANDSOME
2
IT'S NOTHING!
HA HA HA HA
JUST JOKING. WHAT'S THE FACE FOR?

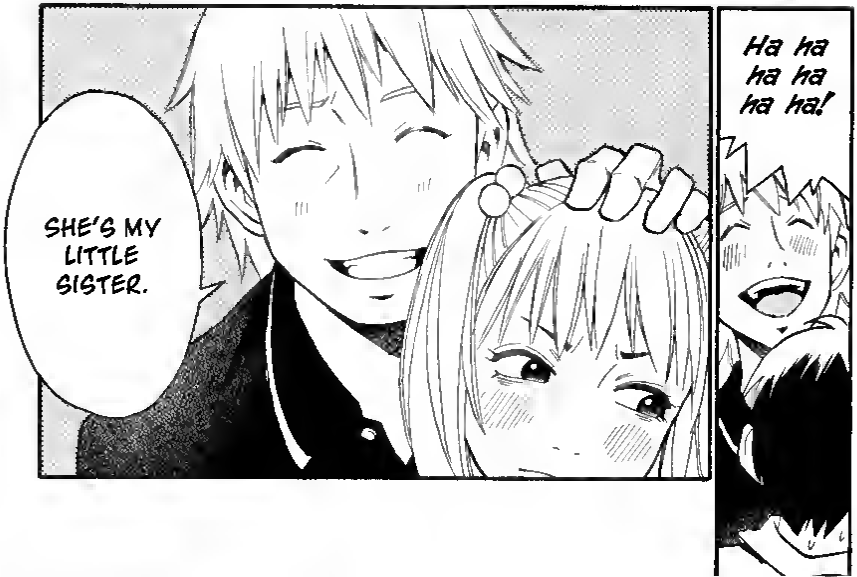
TOYAMA SAKURA
HASN'T SHE BEEN FULL OF HERSELF LATELY?
TRUE WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?
BUT, NANA-CHAN HASN'T REALLY BEEN INTO IT LATELY
SHE WENT HOME AGAIN TODAY
TRUE, THE STRESS IS PILING UP
Hmph...
ANY-WAY
Ad: Open every day until year's end / Summer Sale
Well, it's true that the "Sakura going out with Hayashi Susumu" thing looks so natural...
.. that they would think "she's full of herself."
OKAY
HERE, IT'S TOO LATE TO START NEXT YEAR
It looks like it isn't really "without love."
Book: High School Exams Guide

* A fish shaped pancake filled with bean jam

4

Ah!
EX... EXCUSE ...
OW!
OH?
FORGET IT!
SHH SHH
SO... SORRY
NIIJIMA NANA... OF ALL PEOPLE...
HELLO...
Huh?!

HI.
...!
OH, YOU ALL KNOW EACH OTHER?
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU DO GO TO THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL
HA HA HA
COME ON, LET'S GO ALREADY!
ARE YOU TWO DATING?
HUH?

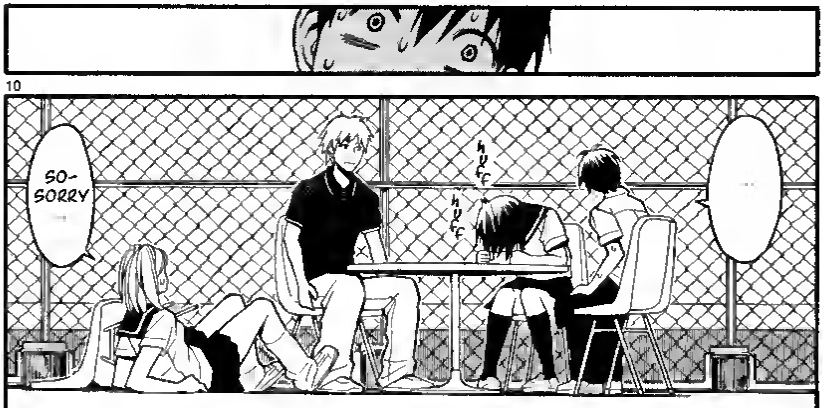

SHE'S MY LITTLE SISTER.
Ha ha ha ha ha ha!

WE WEREN'T DOING ANYTHING ANYWAY
IT'S OKAY
Umm... WE DON'T WANT TO DISTURB YOU
COME ON BE NICE TO EACH OTHER
THIS IS AWKWARD
CHK CHK
HAVE WE MET BEFORE ..?
U-Umm... HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT US?

I USED TO INVESTIGATE HAYASHI TSUTOMU'S DISAPPEARANCE IN THE PAST.
!!
8
I BEGAN TO INVESTIGATE ON MY OWN, EVEN THOUGH I WAS ONLY 16.
WHERE EVEN THE POLICE COULDN'T GET ANY RESULTS.
IT WAS AN INCIDENT IN THE TOWN I LIVE IN, AFFECTING PEOPLE CLOSE BY, THAT'S WHY.

BECAUSE OF THAT, I MET THE BOTH OF YOU.
YOU MIGHT NOT REMEMBER... IT WAS ONLY ONCE...
WAIT A MINUTE...
WHO ON EARTH IS THIS HAYASHI TSUTOMU?
SUSUMU-KUN HAS A TWIN BROTHER NAMED TSUTOMU..
...WHO DISAP-PEARED AT THE AGE OF TEN.
TEN? *HUH?!* THAT WOULD..
THAT MEANS ...

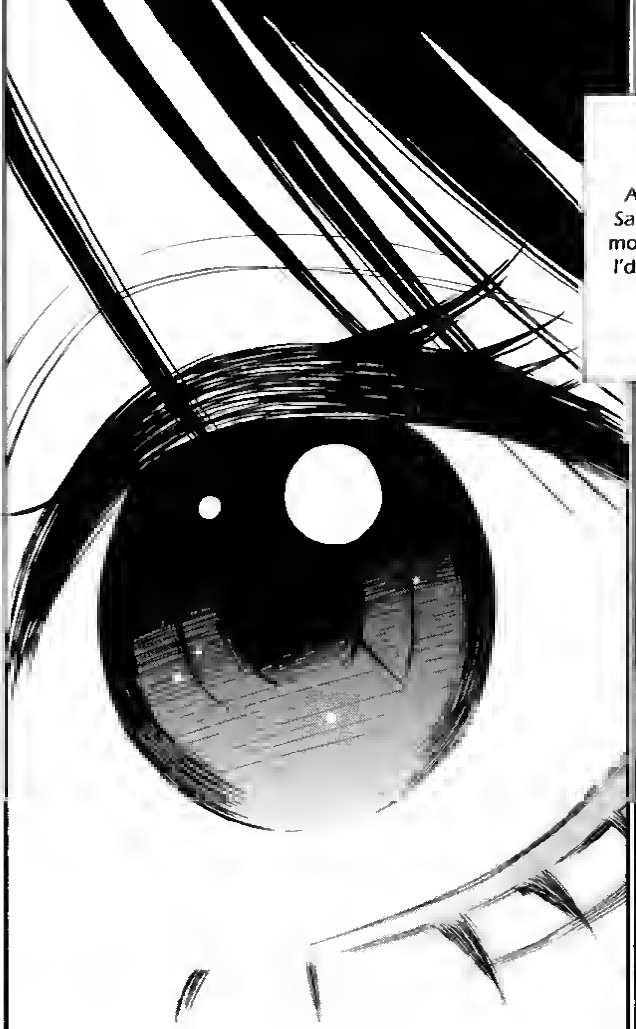
THERE'S NO WAY HE WOULD BE!
HE'S MOST LIKELY DEAD
びくっ


SO-SORRY
hug
hug

HOW'S TSUTOMU DOING?! WHERE IS HE NOW?!
SAKURA
TSUTOMU
RIGHT NOW, I WON'T TELL YOU MYSELF.
11
TSUTOMU-KUN PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT THAT EITHER.
...

IF YOU STILL WANT TO KNOW ABOUT TSUTOMU-KUN...
...YOU NEED TO SEARCH FOR HIM YOUR-SELVES.
C'MON, BROTHER, LET'S GO HOME
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU GUYS ARE TALKING ABOUT THIS IS BORING
YOU BE QUIET FOR A SECOND!

IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO LEAVE THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE?
IF TSUTOMU CAME HOME NOW, SAKURA WOULD
SEARCH FOR TSUTOMU ...?!
DO I REALLY WANT TSUTOMU TO COME HOME ...?!
THAT'S WRONG.. BUT, THEN WHAT DO I...
THE WAY THEY ARE? NO..
WHAT DO I WANT ?
すっ
ﾒﾀｰﾘ

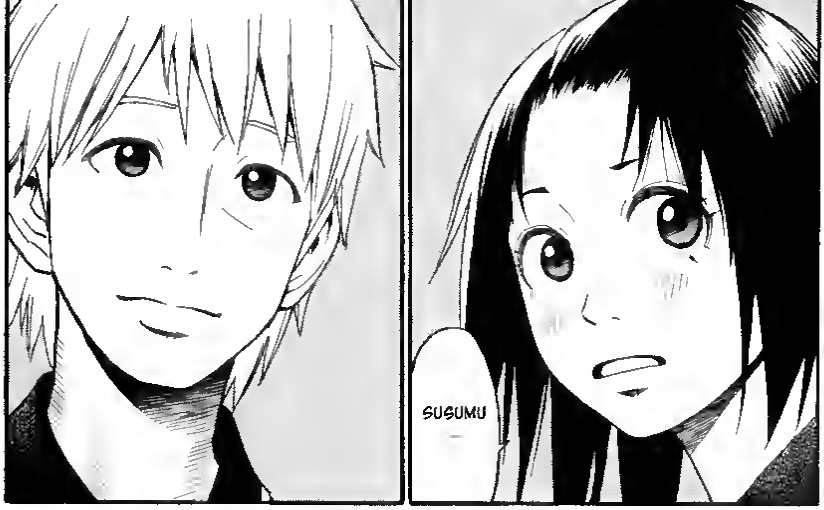


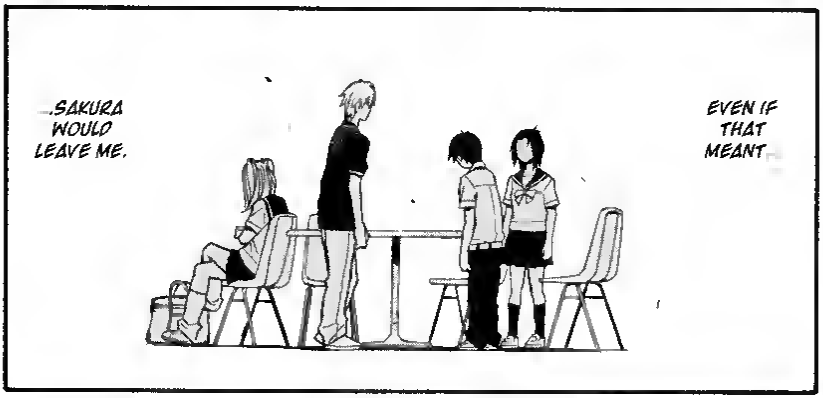
At that moment Sakura's eyes were more beautiful than I'd ever seen them.

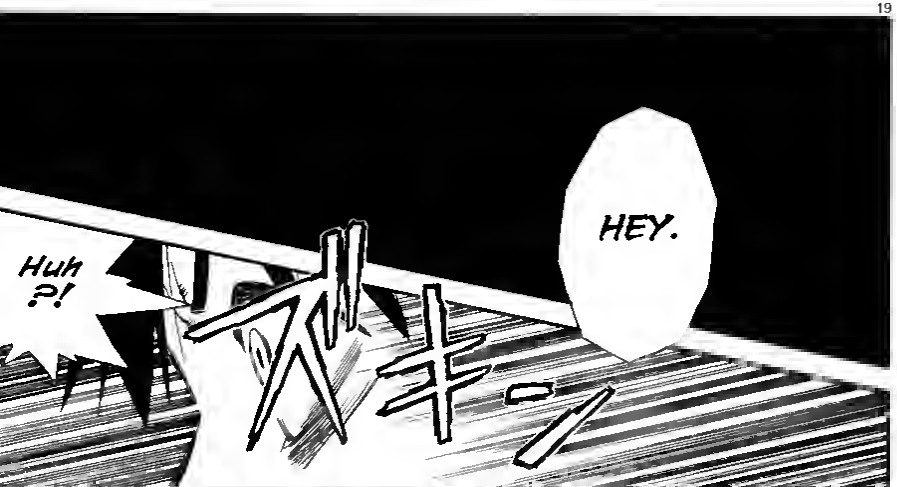
YEAH, THAT'S IT.

And I realized it at the same time.
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO SEE...
I...
When I understood that, tears suddenly fell.

THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE I COULD DO.
I'LL LOOK FOR HIM, FOR TSUTOMU...

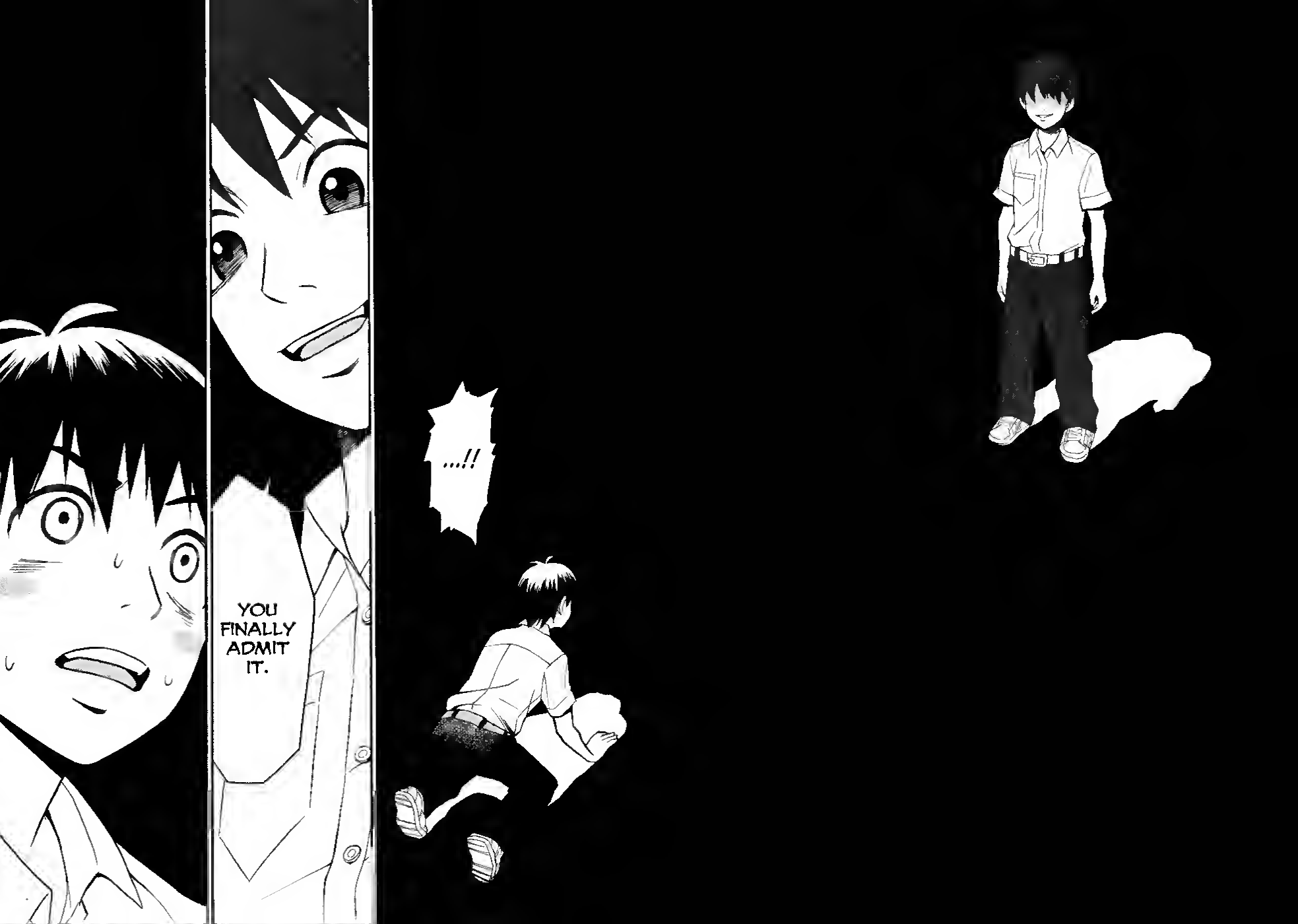

SUSUMU


...SAKURA WOULD LEAVE ME.
EVEN IF THAT MEANT...


HEY.
Huh ?!
ガチャ

YOU'RE GOING TO SEARCH FOR ME?
...!
スキッ
!!
スキッ
He
WOBBLE
スキッ

ST-STOP IT!
HAHA, WHAT'S WRONG, SUSUMU?
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU SAYING?
I'M RIGHT HERE.
SHUT UP!
YO... YOU'RE...
YOU'RE NOT TSUTOMU!!


YOU FINALLY ADMIT IT.
...!!

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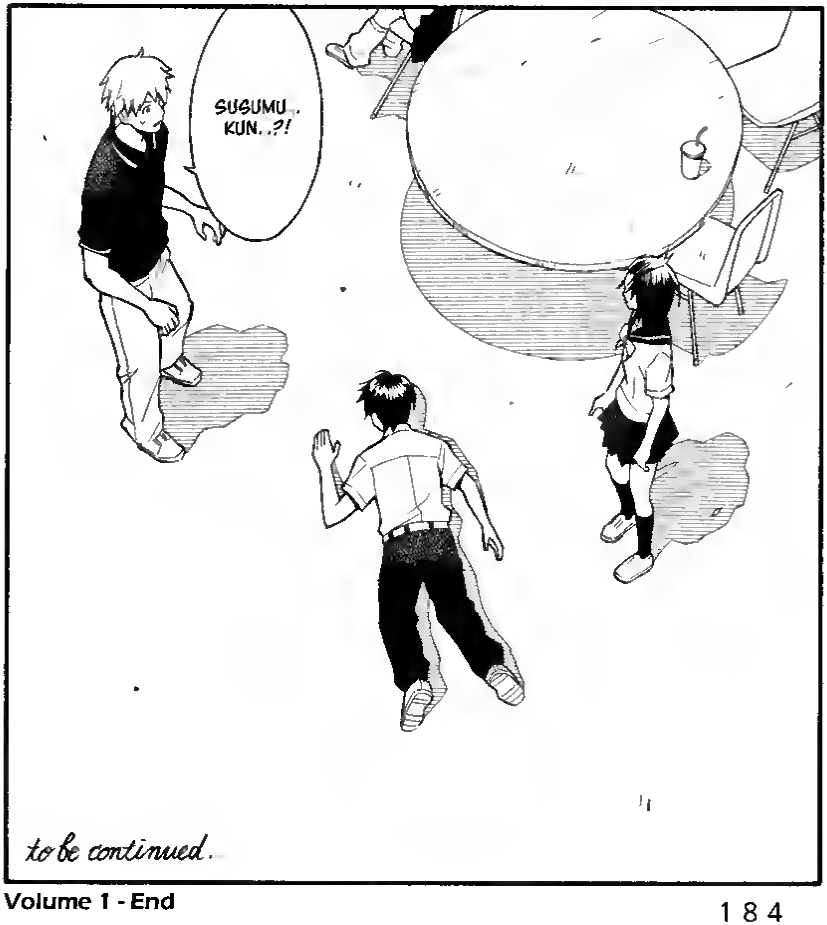


BONUS TRACK

LAKESIDE
COMIC BY
Kei Ayana
Mijima - Big brother (6 years old)
TWITCH
AAAH!
Has everyone finished writing?
COMPOSITION: "DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE"
Uh, no, that.
Mijima didn't write anything!

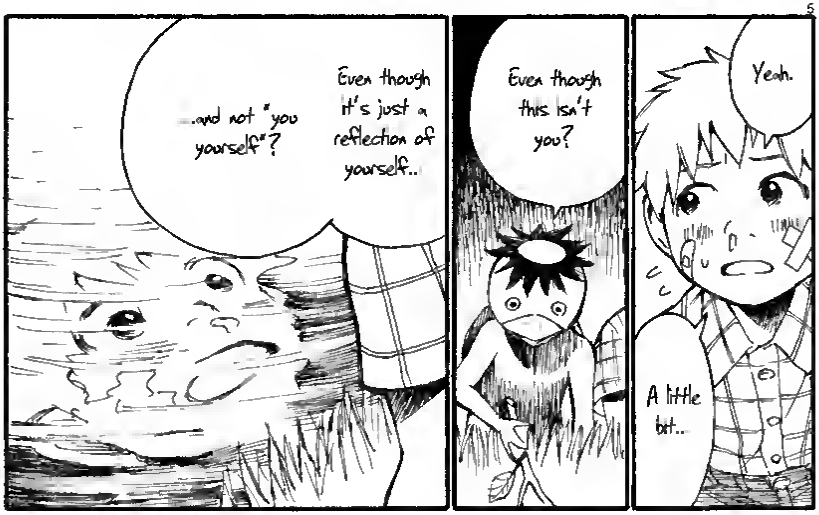
Boy's full of himself 'cause his parents are rich.
Didn't you promise to work harder after your little sister was born?
Oooh, what's wrong, Nijima?
But...
I-I tried to write, but...
You're wrong!
WHOAA
YOU ASS-HOLE!
Hey, now!
BONK
You...
2
As long as he sticks with his daddy...
He probably thinks money will solve all his problems...
he he
Whoa! Nijima's lost it!

Hellooo !
sniff sniff
ざば
Synchro-nized swimming !

...write down anything?
Why didn't you...
SUCK
MILK
So..
You start with writing "I," right?
That way it's like..
...become two different persons.
...and the "I" called "I"...
...the "I" who writes "I"...
4
...I'd still feel like I'm writing somebody else's "story."
Then no matter how many honest thoughts I wrote down...
I
Mm, mm.

* Japanese water goblin.

5



Here's what I think..
Even if the "I" who appears in the composition..
It's strange..
It is.
..is not "you yourself," as long as it's your "story"..
..I'd like to read it.
6
Meanwhile at the Hayashis'
A zombie!
You don't say!
By the way, what d'you want to be when you grow up?
END

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